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IN THIS SECTION

Rusedski wins Wimbledon!

1999 PREDICTIONS, PAGE 14



INTHE FRIDAY REVIEW

Euro is born as ministers hail move towards political union

By John Lichfield in Paris

AND STEPHEN CASTLE AND KATHERINE BUTLER in Brussels

RARELY IN the history of the world can power - real power. the power of money - have been given up with so little fuss.

Eleven sovereign nations yesterday handed over control of their currencies to a committee of bankers. The meeting took less than 30 minutes.

Five hundred blue balloons were released into the sky over Brussels. The euro, the world's newest, least visible and second most important currency was born (weighing in at slightly more than a dollar or just over 70 pence). The Eurosceptics and not just in Britain - said it could never happen; or if it did happen it would cause a European recession, street-fighting or even civil war.

But the euro is coming into being to the polite, overwhelmingly positive but rather distracted welcome of the 300 million citizens of the European Union. (Last night's new year celebrations claimed a much bigger share of most Eurolanders' attention).

The quiet welcome is understandable. For three years, the heavyweight baby with the ugly name will not be allowed to appear in public. The franc. mark, lira and others will remain, nominally, in the pockets and wallets of Eurolanders. The euro will be allowed out on the street only in the form of plastic money and cheques (and even then only if a shop or

restaurant is willing to take it). But, in real terms, the 10 old currencies - two of them, the franc and the florin, with 12 centuries of history between them - died vesterday. They have ceased to exist as independent instruments of national pride or economic policy. They are now mere accounting units of the euro. Their exchange rates



A crowd in front of the European Council building in Brussels preparing to let off balloons yesterday to mark the launch of the euro

yesterday locked until the euro finally sweeps them away in

The 11 finance ministers of the euro nations (Britain not being represented) decided, in a ceremony broadcast throughout Europe, that a euro is worth 1.95583 Deutschmarks, 6.55957 cisions affecting the new cur- roland ministers, foreshadow-

against the new currency were reacy, on interest rates or mon- ing a euro-driven movement to- proceed. We embark on the ter, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, etary flows, will be taken by the European Central Bank in Frankfurt.

Yesterday's calm in Euroland was therefore, in another sense, misleading and perplexing. Something huge was happening but the reaction was an enthusiastic lack of interest. French francs and so on. All de- The comments by several Eu-

wards a more federal Europe will (perversely) delight the Eurosceptics and annoy the Blair government. But they are a

recognition of reality. Hailing the formal estab-Santer, the European Commission President, argued: "Europe can speak with a single voice. It is now up to us to

unity which, I think, is a direct so Europe can play a leading role on the international stage, even including a common delishment of the euro, Jacques fence policy. This goes well beyond the introduction merely of the euro. It heralds a new de-

parture for Europe." The French Finance Minis-

next stage leading to political argued that the euro-11 committee of finance ministers will consequence of economic unity become the "economic government" of Europe, and Italy's Carlo Azeglio Ciampi hailed the currency as a "decisive step towards ever closer political and institutional union in Europe". And indeed, for all that the

rency will progressively demand more co-operation on the big economic and political decisions affecting everything from public spending to unemployment and, up to a point, taxes. In turn, this will - or should - demand more direct democratic control of decision-making in Brussels, which would, itself, be a feder-Blair government denies it, to alising influence: another step tohave a single European cur- wards some form of "European

The EEC/EC/EU has always proceeded this way (stealthily if you like, but its aims always made clear). It sets ambitious but abstract economic targets the common market, the single market, now the single currency. The often unseemly struggle to achieve these targets, and make them stick, forces member states to draw closer and closer together politically.

There are good economic arguments for the euro. It has already sheltered Europe from the worst of the Asian economic flu. The euro countries have minimal inflation and low interest rates (unlike Britain). The OECD predicts that the EU will be the most dynamic region of the world next year.

But the euro was not invented for these reasons alone. It was also invented to answer the threat from German unity by forcing more European economic-and therefore political

A single European currency will - from 2002 when it becomes holdable and foldable - bring Europe alive to its citizens for the first time. There is potential in the euro for the creation of a truly European political consciousness. But also the potential for disaster. If the Eurolanders start to feel economic pain before "bonding" inevitably blame the surreal new money in their wallets.

And what should Britain do? We are back where we started. We did not want the common market but once it prospered we had to join. There are perhaps good economic reasons why Britain would never have wished for the euro; but once it exists and succeeds, we are asked a different question. Can you afford to stay out?

Launch of the euro, page 10, Leading article, Review, page 3

Britain feared Soviets would unleash 20,000 Hiroshimas

A GRIM reminder of the Cold BY PAUL LASHMAR War is revealed today in formerly top-secret Ministry of Defence papers that outline the expected devastation from a Soviet nuclear strike on

Britain. released under the 30-year rule at the Public Record Office at Kew, estimates that a Soviet tnermonuclear attack against Britain would have unleashed a destructive force nearly

AND NICHOLAS SCHOON

20,000 times greater than Hiroshima. It would have flattened much of urban Britain to little more than smouldering The MoD report from 1967, wreckage, with millions of casualties. It is the first time that such a candid government estimate of the scale of nuclear war on the British Isles has been released.

The list was compiled by

Committee and approved by the chiefs of staff, Britain's most senior defence committee made up of the chiefs of the Navy, Army and Royal Air Force.

The document, titled Probable Nuclear Targets in the United Kingdom: Assumptions for Planning, outlines military estimates of how Britain's cities and defence installations would be razed by a Soviet nuclear air attack. The material is based on

the forces' Joint Intelligence high-level intelligence and con- sive. The bombs that were gence) that Russian strategic and regional government centains a table of likely targets, with the size of nuclear bomb expected to be used.

Military top brass thought the Soviets had identified 104 potential targets, including all Britain's main cities, air bases and naval bases. They estimated more than 360 nuclear weapons would be launched by the Soviets with a total yield of 389 megatons - equivalent to 389 million tons of TNT explo-

dropped on Hiroshima and Naaki at the end of the Second World War, by comparison, had yields of just 20,000 tons of

In an introduction to the report, the Secretary to the Defence Chiefs of Staff, Major General Gibbon, said that even that figure could be an underestimate. "Note has also been taken of comment by the deputy Chief of Staff (Intelli-

missiles are now assessed to have an operational yield of half to one megaton - although a maximum yield of about three megatons is possible," he said. London was expected to

with a combination of eight one-megaton missiles and two 500 kiloton bombs - 450 times more powerful than Hiroshima The MoD believed that the Soviets had selected central

take the heaviest punishment

tres, including London and the Navy and RAF; some 20 cities from Glasgow to Nottingham, RAF bomber bases and USAF nuclear bomber bases; submarine and naval bases, including

Rosyth and Portsmouth. Defence experts believed the Russians were aiming two nuclear missiles at each target in case one failed, and most were also earmarked for raids

by aircraft carrying atom

The minutes of a Ministry of Defence meeting that examined the report makes no reference to likely civilian casualties but, had only a quarter of these weapons reached Britain and detonated, at least a sixth of the entire population would have been killed instantly, with millions dying later from radiation sickness, burns and other injuries.

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IN *THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

'Call a Morris dancer quaint and he'll bounce you on your head'

ANDREW MARTIN ON THE WORLD OF MEN. BELLS AND BEER

IN THE WEEKEND **REVIEW: TRAVEL,** GARDENING, BOOKS, MOTORING, SHOPPING AND PROPERTY **EPLUS YOUR MONEY**

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSÓN, HAMISH MCRAE, MARK STEEL, ROBERT LISK, TERF JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, ANNE MCELVOY, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDRE

Leukaemia 'may run in families'

A SUSCEPTIBILITY to blood By John von Radowitz cancer could run in families. scientists revealed yesterday.

Researchers have pinpointed a gene, known as ATM. thought to be responsible for some cases of the most common type of leukaemia. It is the first evidence of a hereditary link to the disease.

The findings from scientists at Birmingham University, published in The Lancet yesterday, show that almost 20 per cent of sufferers of chronic lymphocytic be involved in apoptosis, the leukaemia (CLL) could have a mutated version of the gene. Of these, one in three may have inherited the fault.

Professor Malcolm Taylor, the chief researcher, said: is "switched off" it cannot in-"We've suspected for some time that a number of patients with able to continue multiplying this type of leukaemia could be out of control. The team found carriers of a faulty gene. But the that in 40 per cent of tissue samfact that we have been able to isolate the specific gene and show that it could run in families is a major step forward.

"This means that we can start looking for new ways to repair the defective gene and ultimately prevent this type of blood cancer developing.

CLL, which affects people over 50 in 90 per cent of cases.

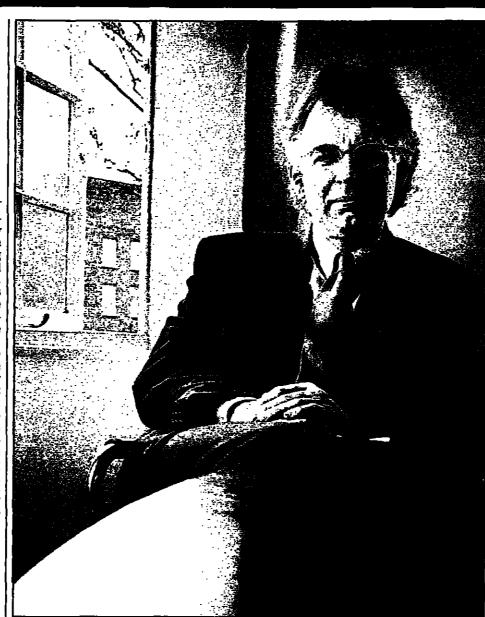
is not immediately life-threatening and can be effectively controlled by drugs. Its main danger is in weakening patients' immune systems and

leaving them open to infection. However, Prof Taylor and his team think problems with the ATM gene could also be responsible for a more aggressive

The ATM gene is thought to self-destruct mechanism by which damaged cells commit suicide before they have a chance to grow into a potentially fatal tumour. If the gene struct cells to die, so they are ples taken from sufferers of CLL, the ATM gene was either impaired or not working.

Professor Gordon McVie, director-general of the Cancer Research Campaign, said: "These findings are extremely exciting because they are taking us yet another step closer to finding out what

BRITAIN TODAY



Blair aide Philip Gould is under fire for backing a Lib-Lab pact Tony Buckingham merger. Philip Gould, his poll-

Labour anger over Lib Dem links grows

TONY BLAIR faced a growing rebellion over plans to forge closer links with the Liberal Democrats yesterday as Labour activists joined cabinet heavy-

weights to oppose his strategy. Opponents of Mr Blair on the left and right of the Labour Party claimed the "tide was turning" against him over Lib-Lab links following the resignation of Peter Mandelson, who was the Cabinet's strongest supporter of closer ties with

Paddy Ashdown's party. It emerged that the new alliance between John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, aimed at reasserting "traditional Labour values". will extend to opposing Mr Blair's moves to bring Labour

and the Lib-Dems closer. In a further setback to Mr Blair, he came under pressure to sack a close adviser who called for an eventual Lib-Lab

Political Editor

ster and strategist and a close ally of Mr Mandelson, called for the two parties to join forces in an interview with The Independent in October.

Labour First, a 600-strong group of moderate Labour activists normally loyal to Mr Blair, said it was "outraged" by Mr Gould's "almost treacherous" behaviour.

"By what right does this self-appointed, self-opinionated wretch try to start a major row in the party?" the group asks in its latest newsletter. "Mr Gould should be thrown in the dustbin of history as a genuine enemy of the party."

Although Mr Blair will not distance himself from Mr Gould, his allies are worried that the new alliance between Mr Prescott and Mr Brown will make it harder to extend cooperation with the Lib Dems.

They have seized their opportunity," one Blair ally admitted last night. "There is no doubt the balance of power in the Cabinet has changed. It is highly significant for our relations with the Lib Dems."

One minister said Mr Brown had been "driven to distraction" by "silly criticism" of his economic policy by Malcolm Bruce, the Lib Dems' Treasury spokesman Like Mr Prescott, the Chancellor opposes the introduction of proportional representation for House of Commons elections.

The minister said opposition to closer ties was not a "leftright" issue, with many newlyelected Blairite MPs hostile to the Lib Dems because they now formed the opposition to Labour at local level.

The growing revolt will make harder for Mr Blair to extend the work of a cabinet committee that includes senior Lib Dems from constitutional reform to other policy areas.

Some ministers are furious that the Lib Dems are demanding access to confidential cabinet papers, saying this would give them more information than Labour ministers and MPs.

In a BBC Radio interview yesterday, Mr Prescott insisted he was "fully on board" with Mr Blair's strategy but stopped short of endorsing his plans to widen the cabinet committee's brief, "Let us see if we can get co-operation," he said.

The Deputy Prime Minister praised Mr Blair's "vision and courage" and insisted his modernising Government was in tune with Labour's traditional

Referring to his interview in The Independent this week which revealed his new partnership with Mr Brown, he said: "I wanted to nail the lie that there was a feud between Gordon Brown and John

Noon toda

London, Cent S & SE England, E Anglia, E & NE England: Dull and cloudy with a small risk of druzzle, but mild. A moderate southerly wind, Max temp 10-

Midlands, Cent N England: Rather cloudy, but mild and mostly dry. A moderate southerly wind. Max temp 9-10C (48-50F). Channel Is, SW & NW England, Wales, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Dull and cloudy with rain moving in. A Iresh south-westerly wind. Max 8-11C (46-52F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow, W Isles: Mostly cloudy with showers becoming pro-longed this afternoon when some heavier bursts are possible. A fresh south-ea-ly wind. Max temp 8-9C (46-48F). N treland: Early rain in the north, becoming brighter and more showery before rain moves in tonight. A fresh south-westerly wind. May temp 7-10C [45-50F].

OUTLOOK

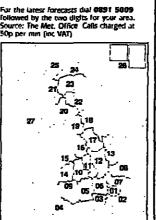
Overnight rain will clear to leave tomorrow breezy with sunny spells and show-ers, most frequent in the north and west. It will be breezy but generally mild. Further rain will spread east on Sunday, but it will become even milder.

TRA Leytonstone. Major roadworks on new M11 link road. Until 31st December 1999. Camtratigeshifre A10 between Foxton and M11. Resurfacing and bridge maintenance work at Shepreth MRL Until 14th February. Bucking planshine: M40 between junctions 1e (M25) 8.3 (Wycombe East). Three narrow tanes both ways and a 50 mph speed limit in torce Until 1st January. Bristol: M5 JB-19. Major Roadworks on Avormouth Bridge, Until 23rd June 2001. Monmouthshire: A449 between Usk A472 and M4 J24. Roadworks. Until 11th January.

th: Call 0336 401777 for AA Roadwatch: Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls

SUN & MOON

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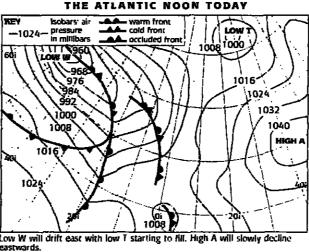
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RAIN OR SHINE...

MORE THAN two million peo-ple in Tanzania will face "severe food shortages" this year as part of the legacy of damage caused by el Nino in 1998. Tanzania was not only battered by severe storms in January, it was left facing a drought in the rainy season of October to December. The central bank said the effect of poor harvests had been made worse by pests, poor storage and food smuggling to neighbouring countries.





THE WORLD YESTERDAY

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Decision soon on M25 Three

A DECISION is expected "within weeks" on whether controversial convictions in the cases of the so-called "M25 Three" of Appeal.

in 1990 for what was described as an "orgy of violence" in towns and villages around the London orbital road, which left one man dead.

They have been supported by a vigorous campaign group which has complained bitterly at the length of time they have been waiting for a decision on the case from the Criminal Cases Review Commission. Now the body set up to investigate miscarriages of justice has indicated that a ruling on whether to put the case before the Court of Appeal is likely

early this month. The decision will come nearly nine years after the three -Raphael Rowe, Michael Davis and Randolph Johnson – were sentenced for a series of attacks carried out in one night in December 1988. The men, from Sydenham, south London, were convicted of the murder, in Hurburgh who, with his homo-

sexual lover was dragged from his car at gunpoint, tied up. are referred back to the Court beaten and doused with petrol. The assault led Mr Hurburgh The men were jailed for life to have a fatal heart attack.

Later, on the same night, men broke into the home of a retired businessman in Oxted and stabbed his 40-year-old son. The next attack took place in a house in Fetcham, where a couple were tied up as their home was ransacked

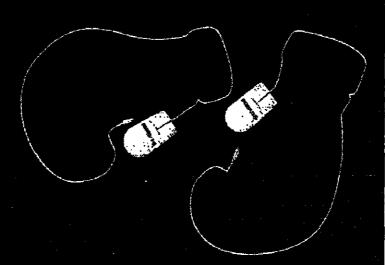
The violent nature of the robberies shocked police and local residents and a £25,000 reward was offered for information on the gang.

The description of the perpetrators, given by victims and issued by the police to the public. was of a gang of two white men and a black man. One victim described one of the gang as being fair-haired and blueeyed. However, the three men convicted were all black. They were convicted largely on the evidence of three accomplices who did not face any charges in connection with the crime.

The Criminal Cases Review Warlingham, Surrey, of Peter Commission announced it was reviewing the cases in 1997.

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? MONEY

Music world in discord as film depicts du Pré the icon as selfish seductress





Jacqueline du Pré, the 'Genius in the Family', flanked by siblings Hilary and Piers

JACQUELINE DU PRÉ, the bril- BY DAVID LISTER liant cellist who died of multiple sclerosis in 1987, is once again to become the centre of controversy. A film based on last year's unsettling biography of her by her sister and brother is due to open in London in three weeks' time.

The film, Hilary and Jackie, will, like the siblings biography A Genius In The Family, show family discord and du Pre seducing her brother-in-law.

In the movie Jacqueline makes plain that she wants Hilary's husband Christopher "Kiffer" Finzi in her bed. "I feel a million dollars this morning. that was exactly what the doctor ordered," she beams after Kiffer - played by David Morrissey - reluctantly obliges his demanding sister-in-law.

The film stars the Oscarnominated actress Emily Watson as Jacqueline and is likely to reopen wounds between du Pre's family and friends. This time, though, the argument will be very public.

Next week Julian Lloyd Webber, the cellist and friend of du Pré, will denounce Jacqueline's siblings Hilary and Piers as driven by spite, and the film "a slur on Jackie's memory".

Jacqueline du Pré, with her flowing blond hair, good looks and vulnerability, was the golden girl of classical music in the sixties. Her recording of Elgar's Cello Concerto was widely praised and remains a

touchstone for other versions. having multiple sclerosis and stopped playing in public. When she died, at the age of 42, she became an icon in the classical music world and beyond. But in the book and film her sister Hi-

lary, a gifted flautist (and originally thought to be the musical prodigy in the family), is shown as jealous and angry at being eclipsed by her sister's

In turn, she paints Jackie as spoilt and manipulative, raging at those who care for her, and emotionally dangerous with overt designs on Christopher.

With the film certain to reach a much wider audience than the book, one of du Pré's most celebrated friends and admirers is Barenboim is upset by both the about to break his silence on the In the February issue of

goes on sale next week. Julian Lloyd Webber says: "She was the cellist I saw the most as a student. She left an impression of a radiant being who loved playing. This does not come over in Hilary and Piers's account. My main impression ... is that there's a spiteful

streak in both Hilary and Piers, and these revelations are their ultimate act of spite and bitterness. It leaves me with a very unpleasant taste."

He adds: "People have to make their own way in life. I have a sibling who has been extremely successful, and I wouldn't entertain doing a book of this kind." However, the classical music

broadcaster Henry Kelly defends the film, which he has At 28 she was diagnosed as seen and describes as "very moving." He adds: "Jacqueline du Pre may have been selfish. ranacious with her sister's husband and a control freak who exploited her own perceived

"It makes her no less an artist ... At a time when her career should have been blossoming her health deteriorated, her husband Daniel Barenboim found a new love and life,

and fathered a child.

"Jacqueline's world gradually fell apart. What unimaginable sadness this must have created within her.

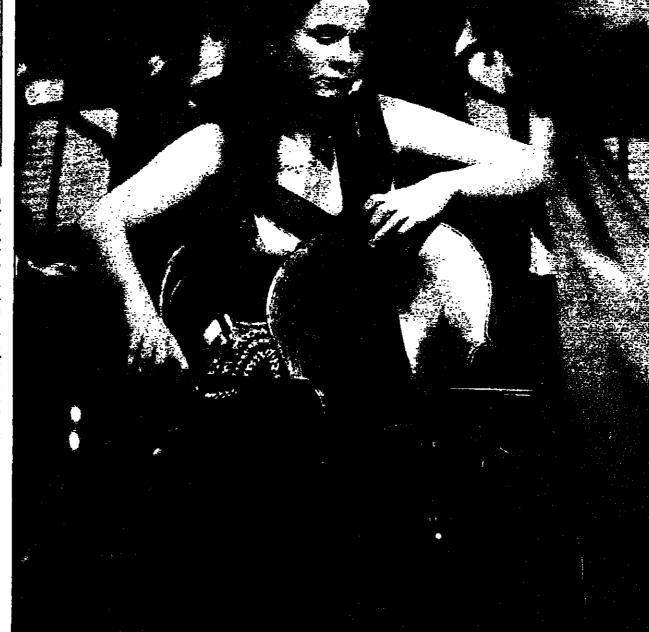
Barenboim, du Pré's former husband, is refusing to comment. But Andrew Stewart of Classic FM Magazine has spoken to friends of the Israeli conductor, and those friends claim book and the forthcoming film. There is even speculation that Barenboim might call on the Classic FM Magazine, which French courts and France's tough privacy laws to halt its distribution across the Channel.

Carol Easton, a former du Pré biographer, suggested in her 1989 biography of the cellist that Jacqueline's relatives declined to support her as multiple sclerosis crippled her.

Hilary du Pré claims there was a reconciliation with her sister. But, as she slipped into her final coma, Jacqueline du Pre chose to be surrounded by her friends, not by her siblings.

Brother and sister stand to make money from the movie adaptation, which is directed by Arnand Tucker and, with Emily Watson, stars James Frain as Barenboim, Rachel Griffith as Hilary, Charles Dance as their father and Celia Imrie as their

Hilary and Jackie has a gala charity premiere at the Barbican Centre on 20 January. One critic who has seen a preview of the film says Emily Watson portrays du Pré with



The Oscar-nominated actress Emily Watson portraying Jacqueline du Pré in the film 'Hilary and Jackie'

while James Frain plays tre of my being. Barenboim as "a study in

Hilary and Jackie marks the big-screen debut of Arnand Tucker, a documentary maker. sensuality when she plays the He says the film is even-hand-

SkyDigital takes the lead in race for customers

cello, and is heartbreaking as ed. "Hilary and Piers' story has everything; love, hate, sad- was originally going to be simher health fatally declines, honestly moved me to the cen- ness, beauty, wonder. I think you ply called Jackie. But American

Jackie paid for her talent nor of a lie about who she really was." arrogance and bewilderment". the sacrifice that lay at the heart of Hilary's life.

belittle her and her music by "I had no idea of the price trying to canonise her, by telling with Jackie Kennedy.

will cause pain to du Pre's they are going to see a film "It touched something very friends, there is by contrast an making comparisons between

While Hilary and Jackie can audiences might believe deep in me ... Jackie's music amusing history to its title. It a first lady past and present.

FACTS, FICTION AND FEUDS

Margaret Helfgott, the sister of the planist David immortalised in the film Shine derided the biopic (below) as an "unforgivable distortion" of her brother's life. In her book Out of Tune, Ms Helfgott claims that David's illness was not caused by his supposedly



abusive father, but was a form of schizophrenia. Novelist and film-maker Hanif Kureishi was challenged publicly by his sister for his portrayal of his father in the novel *The* Buddha Of Suburbia, and the resulting television series (below).Yasmin Kureishi wrote to The Guardian contradicting many of her brother's claims about his childhood. She wrote: "Does being



rewrite history for even more personal gain?" The makers of Titanic

incensed an entire Scottish community with their portraval of William Murdoch. The liner's First Officer was seen shooting a passenger who tried to fight his way into a lifeboat and then turning his gun on himself. Alasdair Morgan, the SNP MP for Galloway and Upper Nithsdale, tabled a Parliamentary motion calling for an apology and Scott Neeson, vicenear Dumfries to placate

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> bay books. auffat title of

RUPERT MURDOCH'S Sky- BY RHYS WILLIAMS Digital has won the opening skirmishes in the long fight to become Britain's dominant digtimes as many users as its rival ONdigital.

According to the latest figures, more than 250,000 British homes are now receiving a dig-ital signal. The satellite broadcaster SkyDigital, which launched on 1 October, says it has hit its year-end target of 200,000 subscribers.

Its terrestrial counterpart, weeks before ONdigital. Of the respectable.

ONdigital, is refusing to discuss figures in public. The company, ital broadcaster, picking up four a joint venture between Carlton and Granada, will say only that hundreds of thousands will be watching by the end of 1999. However, The Independent has learnt that, five weeks after transmission began, as many as 50,000 homes had bought the service, a figure said to be in line with expectations.

100,400 customers Sky signed up in its first month, 70,000 or so were existing satellite subscribers trading up to digital. "The big challenge, not just for us, is to get the multi-channel virgin," said SkyDigital.

Over its first three months, Sky has probably seduced about 60,000 multi-channel virgins, a figure that makes ONdigital's 50,000 new users gained despite hardware supply problems and variable sig-SkyDigital launched six nal reception - look highly

terrestrial television is your existing aerial and television to decode the signal. The shortage of boxes caused ONdigital initial problems. At the launch weekend, shops held 5,000 boxes compared with 75,000 inquiries. "We suffered as new technologies often do," said ONdigital "That has now been

addressed."

The other factor inhibiting of households are in areas un-

All you need to watch digital will fall to about 10 per cent by the end of this year. SkyDigital, set, with £199 for a set-top box however, is available across the whole country to anyone with a satellite dish and the

appropriate decoder. Both platforms offer free to air channels such as BBCs 1, 2, Choice and News 24, and Channels 4 and 5. These are topped up with nearly 200 subscription channels on SkyDigital and about 20 on ONdigital, ITV and ONdigital is that nearly a third ITV2, which commanded an audience of 730 for its Trevor

able to pick up the signal. That McDonald interview with big difference will come when Sarah Ferguson, are exclusive to the terrestrial platform.

Marco Rimini, director of development and strategy at the advertising agency J Walter Thompson, believes there is little else beyond their big budget promotional campaigns that either supplier could be doing to sell the service at the moment. SkyDigital is expected to spend £60m on marketing before the end of 1999, ON-

"In the short term, the only

someone gets some killer programming on air, like football or films," Mr Rimini said. ONdigital has set aside £20m to buy in the sort of must-see, event programming that did so much to drive dish sales for Sky. It has, for example, secured Mike

Tyson's return to competitive boxing this month for £2m. Mr Rimini said he expected a new generation of television sets to include the digital decoder box as standard. Broadcasters could accelerate the

boxes or giving them away.

The only question left is which of digital's three platforms - cable, satellite and terrestrial - will lead the market. One City media analyst said: "There probably is room in the market for multiple platforms. Cable operators are enjoying reasonable success now and they come on stream this year. while part of the market will

On New Year's Day, talk as long as you like for no more than 50p.

On New Year's Day with BT you can phone whoever you like in the UK, for as long as you like, and you'll never pay more than 50p for the call. That's right

OFFER APPLIES TO INLAND CALLS, INCLUDING HOME HIGHWAY CALLS, MADE BY ALL RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS ADVANTAGE CUSTOMERS, NORMAL RATES APPLY TO ALL OTHER CALLS INCLUDING NON-GEOGRAPHIC NUMBERS (9 g 0245, 0845, 0870, 0890), CHARGECARD, RING ME FREE, ISON CALLS, BUSINESS HIGHWAY AND CALLS TO MOBILES AND THE CHANNEL ISLES

- local and long distance calls. So, go on, pick up the phone and ring in January 1, 1999 in style. This offer is just one more reason for being with BT.



Millions greet final year of millennium

the streets last night as Britain celebrated the beginning of the final year of the Millennium.

Edinburgh saw up to 180,000 party-goers from around the world arriving to join the UK's biggest street party as the Scots celebrated Hogmanay. In London, 100,000 people

converged on Trafalgar Square to see in the New Year to the chimes of Big Ben.

wait a little longer to celebrate the arrival of 1999 - scientists have ruled that the last minute of 1998 should be 61 seconds long to allow the rotation of the Earth to catch up with today's super-accurate atomic

Shoppers having stocked up massively for the Christmas period, surged to retail centres again yesterday to make last minute purchases. But few peoseemed inclined to cook, with large numbers of the cap-

ital's restaurants fully booked. At Sir Terence Conran's restaurant, Mezzo, which seats nearly 500 all the tables were booked twice. Diners who arrived at 7pm had to give up their tables by 9:15, although they were allowed to continue their evening at the bar.

The well-organised booked taxis well in advance, realising that most city centres would be snarled up well into the early hours. And firms were each reporting several hundred book-

In Edinburgh, the former GPO building on Princes Street was turned into a massive warehouse party. The street party and Concert in the Gardens lasted until 1.30am, with free buses taking revellers

Revellers in Northern Ireland were also taking to the streets at press time. In Belfast, what

is expected to be the city's way said: "Cardiff is gearing up open air concerts by the Saw Doctors and Downpatrick band Ash, a firework display and a

More than 10,000 people were expected and council chiefs said it would be a dry run for the Millennium celebrations: "In the future we would like Belfast to be even better than Edinburgh at New Year," said a city council

As the nation wakes up to a collective hangover it should be well equipped to cope: sales of headache cures soared last year with the total bill for overthe-counter painkillers coming

Cardiff plans to stretch New Year over three days, as a pilot project for the Millennium celebrations. Last night it laid on a funfair, a lantern procession, New Year resolution trees, live

biggest street party featured two to mark the Millennium with a family celebratory event we can all participate in and be proud of.

London has assembled more than 10,000 performers for the capital's 13th New Year's Day parade. Some 800,000 spectators lined the streets last year to watch the three-hour jamboree. Organisers predict there could be more than one million today if the weather is good. Bob Bone, the director of the parade, said it would be "the biggest street entertainment to take place anywhere at any time the of year".

"We are serving up a feast of family entertainment and the interest from around the world this year has been immense.

New York's Thanksgiving Parade, organised by Macy's department store, is the London spectacle's nearest rival and featured 5,000 performers



Foreigners and local Chinese join together at midnight to welcome the first day of 1999 in Hong Kong

Last year thousands of people gave up the same thing for the new year.

"Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to you."

Most people will rip open their cards and this message will drift across their minds without causing a ripple of worry. To others, facing the new year is like standing in the path of a thundering tidal wave of problems.

A stressful Christmas period can be the straw that breaks the camels back, where everyone seems happy except you. Or it can be a time of reflection, the calm before the storm.

Having only just survived the last year some feel drained of the will or energy to do battle with another year. So while others are joining gyms. giving up beer and fags, many decide simply to

One person in Britain dies by suicide about every 90 minutes, 75% are men. Every 7 seconds someone contacts The Samaritans, and every year they receive over 1.5 million silent calls.

The Samaritans know from 45 years of experience that just talking to someone who will really listen, can make the difference between someone choosing life rather than suicide.

The Samaritans don't aim to solve people's problems. Often the reason someone's in such distress is because their problem doesn't have a "solution".

But by talking through a problem people begin to discover options they may not have realised existed. Many people think of suicide because they need the problem to go away that instant, but they don't want to be dead forever.

The Samaritans will not judge or preach, or tell you what to do, but neither will they play down the seriousness of your situation, and it almost goes without saying that anything you say is in absolute confidence.

So this New Year, whatever you're going through, we'll go through it with you.

Car of missing family found abandoned



AN ABANDONED car belonging to a couple who vanished with

their foster children more than four months ago has been

The first breakthrough in the investigation into the disappearance of Jade and Hannah Bennett and their foster parents, Jeff and Jenny Bram- formation about the car or ey, came on Wednesday in sightings of the family. The car, which may have been there

for up to five weeks, to police. Cambridgeshire police, who have been leading the inquiry, said coats belonging to Jade, five, and Hannah, three, and documents relating to them.

were found in the car. Mr and Mrs Bramley disappeared from their home in Ramsey, Cambridgeshire, on 14 September with the two girls they had hoped to adopt. They had been due to meet Cambridgeshire County Council social service officials, who planned to take the children back from the couple because they were unable to provide the "special home" the girls needed. Their natural mother put Jade and Hannah into care because she was unable to look after them.

A nationwide search and televised appeal for information turned up few leads on the being met.

Jade (left) Hannah (right), missing for three months BY CATHY COMERFORD

> family. The couple are thought to have drawn a large sum of money from their bank account

before vanishing. Police were yesterday ap pealing for people near the city's railway station for any inbreakfast and residential accommodation nearby and it is believed the family could still be

Detective Sergeant Mark Nicholson said: "We will now be closely examining the vehicle and hope its recovery will give us further clues as to where this family are now.

He said the car, reported to police at lunchtime on Wednesday, had four new tyres and it was suspected that a garage in the York area had worked on it recently. Officers were also checking whether the family were caught on closed-circuit television cameras.

Last month a High Court judge appealed for public help in tracing the family. Mrs Justice Hogg said she was concerned for the safety of the girls and worried that their health and education needs were not

IN BRIEF

Firms urged to reveal green policy

JONATHON PORRITT wants the Government to force firms to remove the secrecy surrounding their green credentials. The former leader of Friends of the Earth said firms should be bound by law to describe their environmental policies and say which board members were responsible for green issues in their annual reports.

Ahern hails 'wonderful year'

THE PRIME Minister of Ireland, Bertie Ahern, looked back last night on "a wonderful year" for his country. In a New Year message, he highlighted the breakthrough of the Good Friday Agreement. "But it has also been a year of great sadness and tragedy with the horror of the Omagh bombing shattering so many family lives." he said.

Potholer dies trapped in rocks

RESCUERS RECOVERED the body of a 45-year-old potholer from Gwent yesterday who died trapped 50ft underground in a south Wales. The operation took caving volunteers and police divers 17 hours to complete, in difficult conditions. Peter Fowler was found dead, wedged in rocks, in a cave complex near Merthyr Tydfil.

Pill to regulate drug dosage

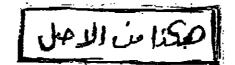
SCIENTISTS HAVE developed a genetic "dimmer switch" that enables the body to vary the amount of a therapeutic drug circulating in the bloodstream. The switch can be turned up or down by swallowing a pill to tell the body to make more or less of the genetically engineered medicine.

Thumbs down for novelty ties

MEN WHO wear Mickey Mouse or Wallace and Gromit ties are seen as "immature", according to a survey of 300 businesswomen. The poll said women found a bad tie the most irritating factor of their male colleagues' appearance.

Whatever you're going through we'll go through it with you. The Samaritans, 0345 90 90 90.

The Sameritans relies on donations.



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Survivors tell of 16 hours buried alive

A YOUNG couple who survived BY STEPHEN GOODWIN Scotland's worst avalanche ac- Scotland Correspondent cident this century described yesterday how they managed to stay alive entombed for 16

The couple and mountain lucky survivors of an avalanche on 4,000ft Aonach Mor, near morning

Sarah Finch, a 25-year-old embryologist, said she shouted all night but was buried so were digging her out they could not hear her cries.

The avalanche knocked them off their feet and then covered them. "From what I can remember, I think I tried to stand up, but couldn't," said Ms Finch. Her boyfriend, Steven Newton, 24, said he survived by thrashing around until he managed to enlarge a breathing space and slowly free his arms.

Four other members of the party perished beneath the snow. The group of Venture Scout leaders from Kent were on a winter skills course run by Mr Wild, one of the most experienced guides in Scotland, when they were caught in the very trap they were learning to

In the first direct account of their ordeal Ms Finch and Mr Newton issued a joint statement from just behind us really." from their hospital beds. Ms Finch said: "My friend (Emma Ray, 29, one of the dead) booked the holiday and we are quite keen on hill walking, so we decided that while we were in Scotland we would do a winter mountaineering course, basically because we did not have the experience necessary to go up on our own. She booked us up on a mountaineering course that was supposed to last two days and we met Roger

Nevis range [ski resort]. This was about 7.30/7.45am.

"Mr Wild introduced himself and we took the gondola up with

guide Roger Wild were the the staff, up to the top, and he gave us a briefing and we were also issued with safety hel-Fort William, on Tuesday mets, ice axes and crampons. He explained that it would be about a three-quarters-of-anhour walk to get to the place where we would be doing the deep that even as rescuers ice axe work. Before we started off, he made us put all our waterproofs on and made sure that we were kitted out, which we were, with all the stuff on the

> "After about an hour or so of walking, because it was quite windy, we got to the place where we could start the ice axing, so Roger asked us to put the helmets on, which we all did. We put our rucksacks down in a big pile. Our ice axes were stuck in the ground. He asked us just to stand in a group and chat amongst ourselves for a while, as he was just going a little bit higher up to check out if he was going to find somewhere for us to do the ice axe work.

"He took a couple of paces away from us, and I was facing in the direction of where he was walking, and the snow just came

Mr Newton said: "It just came towards us but we couldn't move. We were just stuck in the way. We didn't have time to get out of the way."

Ms Finch said: "It just knocked us off our feet and then, in what seemed to be a second wave of snow, covered our heads and then, from what I can remember, I think I tried to stand up, but couldn't.

"I don't know whether I blacked out before that and Wild on Tuesday morning at the tried to stand up once it was



Sarah Finch and Steven Newton, who were buried for 16 hours. I thrashed around and managed to enlarge the space,' Mr Newton said

if it was Sarah or not. I kept so all that had been in vain, but emotions on being rescued, shouting out to Sarah, but I I felt good I heard somebody continued: "I was so over-

before we were found, I man-

aged to get a hole to the surface

and tried to drag myself out, but

my feet were just trapped. I

couldn't get my feet loose at all.

A bit later I heard voices shout-

ing and that's when the rescue

a bit of the night and I did hear

in the evening. I couldn't decide

female voice sort of early on

"I tried shouting during quite

wards the end of the night." Ms Finch said: "As far as I all night, but the rescue team said I was so deep that even when they were digging me out,

they couldn't hear me shouting,

couldn't really hear any reply to-shouting, I didn't know who it was, but now I know it was Steve. I heard Roger shouting can remember, I was shouting right at the very end when the rescue team were digging us

out, but I didn't hear anything from any of the others there. Mr Newton, describing his get out to start digging for

whelmed at getting out, not knowing if there would be another wave of snow coming down while I was trapped in there. It was so frustrating at

the time as I had dug my way

to the surface and just could not

other people. I just had to lay

Before he managed to dig to the surface, Mr Newton's head was about three feet below the snow and his legs perhaps six

charged from Belford Hospital,

ment for sprains, bruises and mild hypothermia.

Asked if he planned winter mountaineering again, Mr Newton replied: "Not for a while, I don't think. It will take quite a while to come to terms with what has happened; the loss of our good friends. We just

Hostages fly home as FO sees envoy

who survived a bloody gun bat- AND KIM SENGUPTA tle which left four dead are expected to fly home today.

They return amid a growing diplomatic clash over a bungled rescue operation by Yemeni troops. Yesterday, the Yemeni ambassador in London was summoned to the Foreign Office to be told of the Britain's dissatisfaction with the way the situation was handled.

Some survivors of the kidnap crisis have said that it was the Yemeni security forces which started the firefight in which three Britons - Dr Peter Rowe, 60, Ruth Williamson, 34, and Margaret Whitehouse, 52 - and an Australian, Andrew Thirsk, were killed. The rescue attempt by the Yemeni govern-



Laurence Whitehouse: 'Flattened' kidnapper

ment was carried out despite repeated requests from Britain for all peaceful methods to be used to free the 16 Western tourists abducted at gunpoint by fundamentalists.

Yesterday's Foreign Office meeting followed a brief meeting between Vic Anderson, the British ambassador in Sanaa, and the Yemeni foreign and interior ministers.

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We are continuing to press for a full account."

Yesterday, the freed holidaymakers recovered in a luxury hotel in the Yemeni port of Aden and calmly recounted their experiences over bottles

BRITISH HOSTAGES in Yemen By Frank Gardner

of beer. Two women injured in the rescue bid - one British, one Australian - have undergone emergency surgery.

Eric Firkins, a primary school teacher from Croydon, south London, said: The army started it, without a doubt."

The survivors say mortar fire was echoing round the black volcanic hills of southern Yemen as the shoot-out took place, and machine-gun fire blazed right shove their heads

"Our kidnappers bad very poor tactics," said 64-year-old David Holmes, a former national serviceman, from Grimsby. "They withdrew from the higher ground to take up positions in the valley. They didn't seem to know what they were doing. It was like they were playing a game."

In the thick of the battle, Laurence Whitehouse, a 54year-old teacher from Farnborough, watched his wife. Margaret, go to the aid of an Australian man who had been shot in the groin. "She was shot in the ankle," he recounts "and then she was shot in the head and died instantly."

One of Mr Whitehouse's captors then grabbed his wrist, waving a pistol, and tried to make him go with him, away from the Yemeni troops. But Mr Whitehouse felt that he had nothing to lose after the death of his wife. He grabbed his kidnapper's arm. The man's pistol went off, he said, "and put two holes in my shirt but missed me. Then I flattened him".

Another hostage, Mary Quinn, escaped from her captor by kicking him in the face after he stumbled on rocks.

The kidnappers told the hostages they were demanding the release of their leader, who had been arrested in a recent government clampdown on the

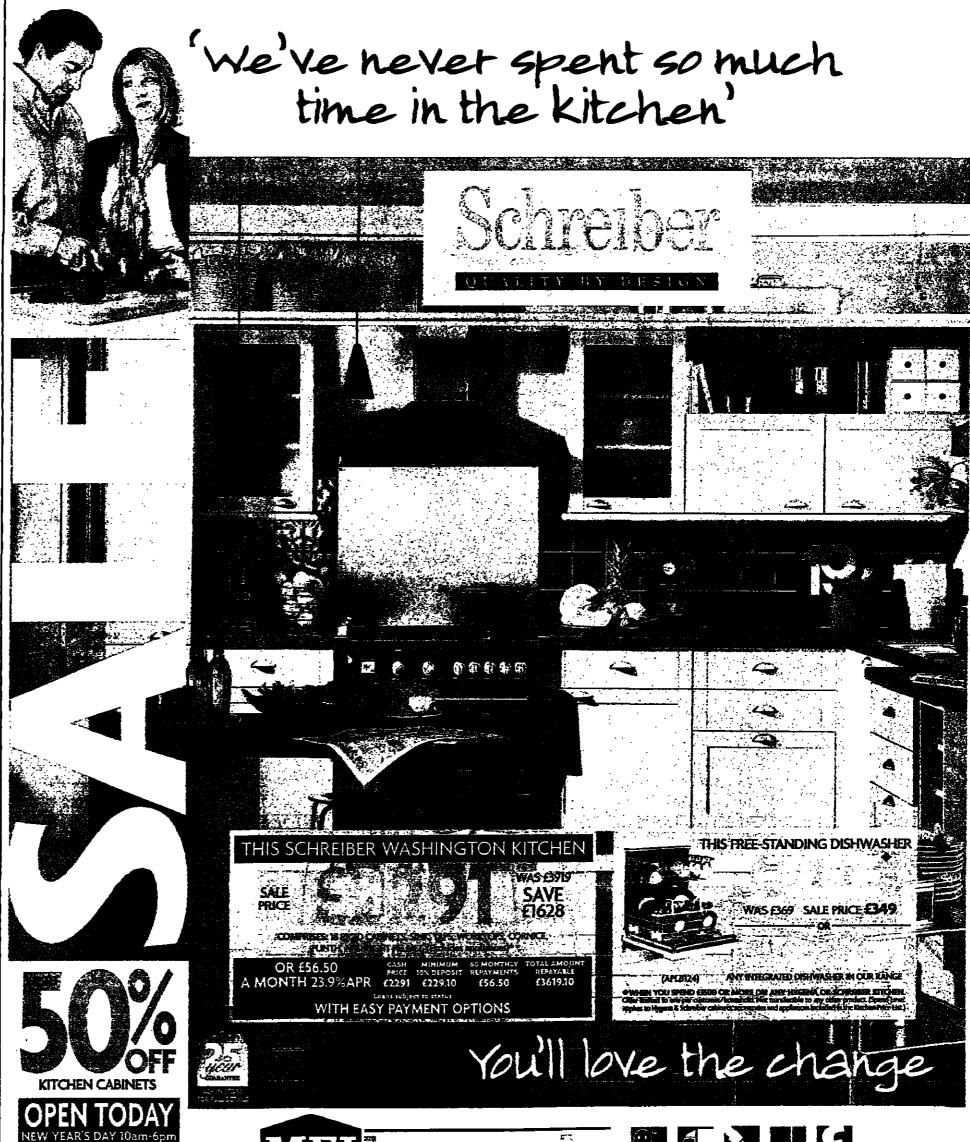
SCOTTISH STORES CLOSED

NEW YEAR'S DAY

AT 9am-6pm SUN Ham-5pm

MON 10am-8pm

group's militant activities. A little-known guerrilla group, the Aden Abyan Islamic Army, has claimed responsibility for the abductions.



HOLIDAY SHOPPING HOURS: Fri New Year's Day 10-6, Scottish stores closed New Year's Day, Set 9-6, Sun 11-5, Mon 10-8, Tites 10-6,

Wed 10-6, Thurs 10-8. N. treland Exceptions Sun 1-6, Mon 10-6, Wed 10-9, Thurs 10-9.

HOUSE IN STREET CANNESS: SOften Lander Tower Unit v 1, 600 page Land Report Land a 2, 600 page 10 page 2 page 10 page 2 p

THINK-TANKS THAT HAVE NURTURED SOME OF THE CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP'S BEST - AND WORST - POLICIES Social Affairs The Social Market The Adam Smith Centre for Policy Politeia Economic Affairs Studies

We need big ideas now, say **Tories**

A NEW right-wing think-tank BY ANDREW GRICE may be set up to help the Conservative Party carve out a much-needed policy agenda to boost its prospects of regaining

William Hague is said to be pretty fed up" with existing right-wing groups, such as the Centre for Policy Studies (CPS) and the Adam Smith Institute, which he feels have been slow to produce fresh policy ideas.

The Tory party is intellectually dead," one senior party figure told The Independent. There is little or no new thinking going on. Better presentation, new colours and logos are important, but the party's appeal must be based on substance, not style."

Senior Tories are understood to have held preliminary talks about setting up a thinktank, and discussed how such a body could be funded.

Supporters of the plan recall that groups such as the CPS, founded by Sir Keith Joseph and Margaret Thatcher in 1974, became the "engine room" of the Thatcher revolution by defining the free-market agenda she introduced after the 1979 election. Privately, some Tories believe the right-wing think-tanks have been outflanked by groups close to New Labour, such as the Demos organisation, which paved the way for the Government's "rebranding of Britain".

Mr Hague showed his determination to inject some fresh thinking into his party yesterday when he promised that outside experts would play a big role in a wholesale policy review to be carried out during the next nine months.

Advocate the merits of a To promote free-market

ueanta eturio (areregiaea eta

In his New Year message to new policy groups on a wide tive agenda for the next centu-

Tory constituency chairmen, range of issues. Mr Hague ry. That means a thorough

warned his party that it could

and the Liberal Democrats to

propel it back to power. "We

need to develop a fresh, positive

and compassionate Conserva-

Baron Skidelsky head it.

social market economy

Has influenced welfare

and education debate.

Policy Studies

Lured David Willetts MP

away from the Centre for

Tots up cost of demands

for extra state cash for

almost everything made

by people on R4's Today.

new policies at the top of his not rely on mistakes by Labour

1989 by supporters of SDP's David Owen; with (above) and Eamonn David Sainsbury's cash; Danny Finkelstein (above; 🚉 now Tory policy chief),

1977 by Dr Madsen Pirie Butler, who still run it

Before it was fashionable,

advocated privatisation.

Influenced Thatcher and

Major governments: has

since praised Tony Blair.

So opposed to state

a guide to regulations

for posing nude

interference it produced

Thatcher (above) and Sir Keith Joseph

To convert the Conserva-

tive Party to free market

deas 'engine room' that

drove Thatcher from '79.

Claims credit for privati-

form. Ran out of steam.

Joseph, in CPS-crafted

'74 speech, split Torles,

saying jobless should go

up to control inflation.

overhaul of all our policies."

sation, trade union re-

To provide the social

parent's free-market

. Has kept close watch on

development of a "nanny

state"; forced Tony Blair

to warn ministers not to

1996 guide for parents

children getting a

wanting to prevent their

"trendy lefty" education

create one

equivalent of its

In 1980 by Dr Digby Anderson, as an offshoot of the institute of Economic Affairs

n 1995 by Dr Sheila Lawlor (above). previously deputy director of the Centre for Policy Studies

In 1957 by Arthur Seldon and Raiph Harris (above; now Lord Harris of High

To expound the ideas of Strong right-wing moralfree-market economics ist agenda; desire for a smaller

aire agus 1914-y Lagailte (19 Challenged conventional Influenced Conservative 60s, 70s economic ideas. education policy. Critics Had profound influence say it has made little imon monetarist thinking in pact, especially since Thatcher governments. 1997 election

Says state should fund Lord Harris was spotted. education, but not bothsmoking on a train to support those outraged er with curriculum or by no-smoking policy pupil assessment

ernment. Now it falls to us to He said: "Each time our begin that process again." great party has been in opposition, we have turned misfortune to our advantage and

The MPs, Tory activists and independent experts who will serve on the policy groups will developed the new thinking analyse the results of the "Lis-

that has taken a new generation

of Conservatives back into gov-

tening to Britain" consultation exercise launched after the catastrophic 1997 election. They will then identify prob-

lems, commission research and draw up policy papers, before the party publishes an "Agenda for Britain" document later a new policy unit.

Hague strengthened the Tories' policy-making machinery by moving Daniel Finkelstein from his current post as

Which would you prefer?

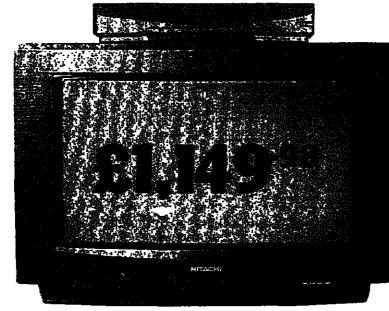
Mr Hague put the search for

agenda, calling for 1999 to be a

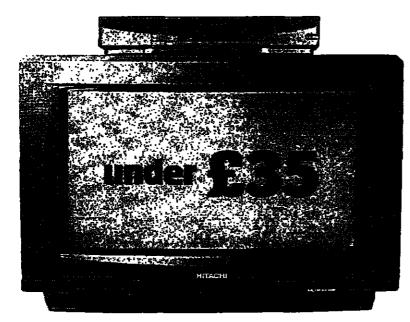
"year of ideas". He announced

that he would soon be asking

his Shadow Cabinet to set up



You could spend £1,149-98* on a Hitachi 78cm Dolby Pro-Logic Widescreen TV and digital package and be stuck with it.



Or you could rent for £34-32* a month at Granada and upgrade to an integrated digital TV in two years time for no extra charge.

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To order, call free on 0800 28 11 89 Lines open Tues-Thurs 8am-8pm, Sat 8am-6pm or visit your local shop GRANADA

We make it easier for you to have the things you want.

Strokes in women linked to migraine

YOUNG WOMEN with a history of migraine are at higher risk of suffering a stroke during their child-bearing years, especially if they smoke and take the contraceptive pill, accord-

ing to an international study. Overall, the risk of a stroke is 78 per cent higher in women who have migraines. The chances of an ischaemic stroke one caused by a blockage of a blood vessel in the brain - are three and a half times higher in and if they use a high-dose contraceptive pill and smoke, it is over 34 times higher. There was also an increased risk in women

with high blood pressure. scientists from Imperial College risk is "wortisome". The risks creased the risk of a stroke,

By JEREMY LAURANCE Health Editor

of a haemorrhage stroke, one caused by a burst blood vessel in the brain, were unaffected by a history of migraine. Dr Limmie Chang, of the

cardiovascular studies unit at Imperial College, who led the research published in the British Medical Journal, wrote: "The data presented here suggest that women who have migraine should be advised strongly not to smoke and that their blood pressure should be carefully monitored and controlled."

The study, conducted in five European countries, examined Stroke is relatively uncom- 291 women aged 20 to 44 who on in women under 45, but had suffered a stroke. One-School of Medicine and the migraine and a further quarter change in the type or frequen-Radeliffe Infirmary in Oxford had a family history of the consay the size of the increased dition, a factor that also in-

although they were not personally affected. The researchers found that

up to 40 per cent of the strokes developed from a migraine attack. More than two-thirds of women with a history of migraine said they had had a headache in the three days before the stroke, compared with one-quarter of those with no history of migraine. However, in some, the headache stopped before the symptoms of ischaemic stroke appeared.

Smoking and the contraceptive pill are both known to increase the risk of blood clots forming which, if they become lodged in the small arteries supplying blood to the brain, can use a stroke. For women tak quarter had a history of ing the contraceptive pill, a cy of migraine associated with it appeared to make no differ-

Schools face millennium bug meltdown, says union

local authorities have failed to check systems for the millennium bug, a survey published

today suggests. Teachers could go unpaid, oupils' records lost and school budgets frozen because of council computer breakdown.

A snapshot survey of 16 local authorities found only seven had tested to ensure that school computer systems would operate in 2000. Another five could give no assurances that their

Education Correspondent

dismissed the claims, however. saying that Audit Commission surveys had found that councils were making progress towards solving likely problems.

Schools are heavily reliant on the National Union of Teachers computers to manage their budgets and affairs and increasingly use sophisticated systems to monitor results and even keep track of registers and attendance at each class.

Doug McAvoy, NUT general secretary, warned that vandals central computers would work. and thieves could have an open

because security systems are linked to local authority comnuters. "Too often local authorities said they were planning to or considering the possibility of doing something; but not a lot," he said. "With just one year to go to the year 2000, planning ... should be over and

have been replaced by action." A spokesman for the Local Government Association said that year 2000 problems were concentrated in small councils. Local education authorities were making good progress, he said, but schools also had a responsibility to make sure their Local government leaders day in up to a third of schools systems were protected.

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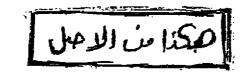
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Public Records 1968: As unrest swept Europe, Tony Benn confronted CND and Harold Wilson put troops on stand-by

curity when an international

dent unrest throughout the

world. In Paris, strikers joined

students to man barricades in

the streets in May. A huge, vi-

olent demonstration against

the Vietnam War took place

outside the US embassy in

Grosvenor Square, London, in

The Prime Minister's secu-

rity files for 1968, some of which

are released today, reveal tip-

offs from members of the pub-

lic of disruption by students of

events attended by the Prime

Minister. In June, Mr Wilson re-

ceived a confidential letter from

a senior member of staff at an

English language school in

London, warning him of a plan, organised by the German stu-

dent leader "Danny the Red"

Cohn-Bendit, to "wreck" an

appearance by the Prime Min-

ister at a university award cer-

emony. The letter revealed:

"Two French students attend-

ing this school - both from the

Sorbonne university and of

good family and prospects - in-

form me that you are to preside

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Arthur Seldon Harris (above. tarris of High

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RICHARD CROSSMAN, the crusty Lord President in Wilson's government, nearly choked with rage when he saw a photograph of Sir Paul

Telegraph on 1 May 1968. Sir Paul and his wife were dressed as Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler. They were pictured at the airport with

Mr Crossman condemned Sir Paul's "antics" at a meeting in Downing Street. The dismissive reply to his complaint angered him further.

HAROLD WILSON'S govern-ment became obsessed with se-PAUL LASHMAR

wave of student protest in 1968 University sometime next saw students and agitators tarmonth. It would appear that the geting government figures and gangster 'Danny the Red' has given instructions that the cer-It was a year of intense stuemony should be wrecked."

> The letter was handed over to Special Branch and, amid special security precautions, Mr Wilson presented an honorary degree at Bradford to M Roche, reader at the Sorbonne.

Shortly before, Tony Benn found himself confronting the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) during 1968, ready to oppose it "with whatever force was necessary" to stop protesters penetrating Britain's nuclear weapons factory. But Mr Wilson doubted that he was up to the job. Mr Benn - who has supported the campaign for most of the years since then - was the Minister of Technology in a Labour Cabinet at the time. His department oversaw the development of nuclear energy for war and

Between these two events. the Cabinet gave urgent consideration to what might happen during CND's traditional Good Friday march from London to the Royal Ordnance Factory at Burghfield, Berk-



صكنا س الاعل

Anti-war rioting at Grosvenor Square, London, in 1968; and 'Danny the Red' (top), whose name was passed to the Special Branch

ment (AWRE) at Aldermaston. Mr Benn told the Cabinet preparations had been made to resist any protest invasion at Burghfield, where Polaris nu-

Weapons Research Establish- manufactured. His permanent into the maximum-security secretary had already sent a note to 10 Downing Street, saying all the conventional explosives and fissile (radioactive) materials used to make the weapons were being moved

magazines and bunkers in the factory's fortified core.

Any protesters who managed to penetrate the perimeter and outer defences would be blasted by firemen's hoses and

have police dogs set on them. But the Prime Minister was unconvinced, and urgent talks were held between ministers on

the day before the 12 April march, both within Cabinet sibility for controlling any

involved - the AWRE's, the Ministry of Defence's force and the civilian, Thames Valley force - he complained to Cabinet that the ultimate responand outside it. With three forces attempted invasion by protest-



ers was unclear. He ordered his Home Secretary, James Callaghan, to meet Mr Benn and the Defence Secretary, Denis Healey. He insisted military helicoptors should be put on stand-by to ferry in extra police and even troops if needed.

Mr Callaghan warned the

Cabinet that extreme left-wing foreign students, especially West Germans, were likely to infiltrate the march, intent on

provoking confrontation. He blamed them for the "new and more violent tactics", seen at the Grosvenor Square demonstration. In the end, the march was more heavily policed than ever before and there was little disorder.

Cabinet 'played it cool' over Powell

By Paul Lashmar

IMMIGRATION WAS the most inflammatory domestic issue of 1968, with the Labour Government terrified it would lead to

violence and unrest. In February, Harold Wilson rushed through controversial legislation to stop immigration by UK passport holders in East. Africa. Then in April came the Tory politician Enoch Powell's "Rivers of Blood" speech, disowned even by his own party

leader, Edward Heath. Documents released today show that the prime minister was anxious to "play it cool" over the decision not to prosecute Mr Powell for incitement. His speech to West Midlands Conservatives provoked outrage with its inflammatory references to immigration being

like a nation "heaping up its own funeral pyre". The address came at a time of growing sensitivity to racial issues as Asian immigrants fled East Africa. He warned of the "national danger", adding the infamous lines: "As I look ahead I am filled with foreboding. Like the Roman, I seem to see 'the river Tiber foaming



Enoch Powell: Speech was

widely branded as racist Within three days the decision had been taken not to prosecute Mr Powell under the

1965 Race Relations Act. The mood of the British people was one of mounting opposition to immigration, one that the Wilson government felt im-

pelled to take on board. Documents show that the decision to rush through legislation to cut back on the numbers of immigrants caused a

serious cabinet row. Proposals for the legislation were introduced by James

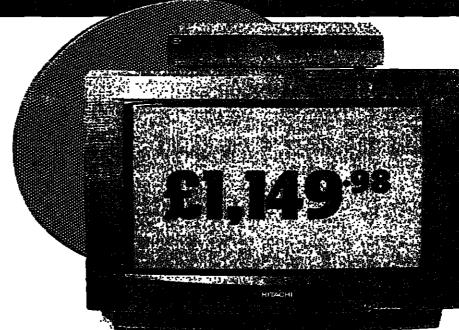
home secretary, at a cabinet meeting on 15 February. He said the change was needed to deal with four immigration problems. The first to crack down on the clandestine entry of illegal immigrants; the second to stop the entry of children under the age of 16 to single parents; and the third to require immigrants to undertake

health checks. But it was the fourth item that has remained a blot on the history of the Wilson government. This proposed legislation to cease the right of foreignborn Commonwealth citizens to have automatic right of entry to

A cabinet debate then followed in which the strongest opponent was George Thomson. Mr Wilson summed up the debate by saying he felt the cabinet was not ready to make a decision, but a decision would

> have to be taken a week later. However, by the time of the next cabinet meeting, Mr Wilson was taking a much harder line and clearly a great deal of behind-the-scenes political pressure had been brought on his ministers. The Bill was passed the next day and given

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PM prepared plan to hand over Falklands

government considered a 10year "transitional period" to pave the way for transferring moment" to Argentina. sovereignty of the Falkland Islands to Argentina, according to documents made public for the first time today.

Official papers released to the Public Record Office under the 30-year rule show that the Foreign Office was anxious to convince the islanders of the benefits of a transfer of sovereignty. However, talks with Buenos Aires foundered on the entrenched opposition of the islanders, who were determined to resist any change in their status.

The talks, opened in January 1966, were treated with deep suspicion by the islanders. In 1968, four members of

HAROLD WILSON'S Labour the Islands' Council issued a public warning that they could be handed over "at any

> In February 1968 the islands' governor, Sir Cosmo Haskard, flew to London to seek reassurances from ministers about the direction the negotiations were taking. When he met the foreign secretary, George Brown, the depth of the islanders' hostility apparently

took Brown by surprise. "Mr Brown said he was exceedingly angry at the situation which had developed over the handling of the Falkland Islands' dispute with the Argentines," the minutes of

the meeting noted. "He could not understand why he had not been told before by the Commonwealth Office,

we were going too far."

Sir Cosmo returned to the Falklands to reassure the islanders that those in authority in Britain were now "fully informed" of their feelings.

However, a senior Foreign Office official, John Beith, warned that by making clear that the Government would not move without the islanders' consent, they had reduced the chances of a successful out-

come to the negotiations. "It is hardly consistent with our policy of trying to persuade the Falkland Islanders to see the advantages of an early transfer to make so abundantly clear that we would not and cannot move without them," he noted in a memorandum to Brown's private office.

Rage over civil Royals offer to scrap yacht servant's fun

THE YEAR began with the Queen offering to dispense with the royal yacht Britannia as a cost-cutting gesture in light of the poor shape of the economy. Britannia was Gore-Booth, the head of the estimated to cost £550,000 a Foreign Office, in his Daily year to operate.

The Defence Secretary decided against scrapping the yacht. The Prime Minister's office took two months to reply to the Queen, who bethe Sheriock Holmes Society. came anxious that the public

be told her offer. A statement about the offer was issued. The vacht was to continue in its role for 30 years.

Some changes 'too modern'

PLANS BY Michael Ramsey, who was Archbishop of Canterbury, to modernise Remembrance Sunday were vetoed by the Queen.

A file shows the Church of England proposed a radically reformed day. It wanted to remove references to war, make it more "youth friendly" and even considered moving it from November.

However, a letter by the Home Secretary said: "As it was felt the Queen's views would be shared by many... the time for a change is not yet opportune."

Ref no In 128

Militants close US embassy in Israel

THE UNITED STATES embassy By Eric Silver in Tel Aviv was closed yester- in Jerusalem day after Islamic militants threatened to blow it up in revenge for the recent allied

bombing of Iraq. An embassy spokesman. Larry Schwartz, said they had received a "direct and credible" threat by telephone on Wednesday night. The US ambassador to Israel Ned Walker, responded by instructing his staff to stay at home for the day.

Mr Walker, a career diplomat, took up his post a year ago. He is a Middle East specialist who served previously as ambassador to Egypt. He was in Abu

Dhabi during the 1991 Gulf War. Callers at the embassy on Hayarkon Street, a grim concrete fortress of a building overlooking the Tel Aviv beach, were advised that it would reopen

Mr Schwartz described the closure as a "normal and practical step" of the kind adopted after the bombing of US embassies in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, and in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, on 7 August.

The threat was taken particularly seriously because of what he termed "the general rise in regional tensions in the past month or so", a reference to the confrontation between the US and Britain with the

Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. The spokesman denied an Israeli radio report that the caller had threatened to assassinate the ambassador or members of his staff.

Israeli police were on duty as usual, but a spokeswoman said they had not been reinforced. Hayarkon Street, a narrow, con-

gested road, remained open to traffic but police sappers were checking vehicles in the embassy car park.

As of last night, Israeli police were not involved in hunting the would-be bombers. The only assistance requested by the Americans was to try to trace the threatening phone call. The CIA, through its station chief in Tel Aviv, has close working links with the Palestinian and Israeli security services.

US embassies have been on alert since the East African bombings, which killed 224 people, including 12 Americans. Washington blamed them on the fugitive Saudi Arabian millionaire, Osama bin Laden.

As tensions rose in the Gulf in early December, the State Department ordered 40 US embassies in Africa to close. Diplomats' families and nonessential embassy staff were called home from Israel and Kuwait, potential targets for retaliatory missile strikes. The US and Britain advised their citizens to stay away.

Meanwhile in Baghdad, Iraq's ambassador to the UN, Nizar Hamdoon, said Iraq will continue to attack US and British aircraft enforcing no-fly zones in the north and south of the country. In a statement broadcast on CNN, Mr Hamdoon said: "We will continue [to carry out attacks] until the US and the UK decide to pull out." In spite of the threat, US planes conducted routine patrols vesterday in the southern and

northern no-fly zones.



way out in Jerusalem church row

ISRAEL, WHICH has invested BY ERIC SILVER \$500m over the past four years to welcome four million pilgrims expected for the millennium, is caught in the crossfire of a centuries-old conflict for control of Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the most sacred site in Christendom.

Every pilgrim will want to renerate the place where Jesus is said to have been crucified and entombed. The trouble is that the church, rebuilt by the Crusaders 900 years ago on Byzantine ruins, has only one door.

That is adequate in a normal year, when there are about 700,000 visitors and the church is open eight hours a day. But with five times that number, it is a prescription for disaster. At Easter in 1840, 500 pilgrims died in a stampede when the church caught fire during the Greek holy fire ceremony.

"You can't open a cinema without at least two doors," Uri Mor, director of the Christian communities department in the Religious Affairs Ministry, said. So the Israelis are proposing to open a second door, enabling pilgrims to go in one end and out the other.

The three denominations sharing control under a fragile "status quo" dating back to the 1850s - the Greek Orthodox, the Armenians and the Catholics have agreed in principle, so long as it is defined as an "emergency" door. They can argue about it again once the emergency of 2000 is over. But that

is only the first step.

Mr Mor, a mild Jewish bureaucrat who grew up in Nazareth, is negotiating a way through the labyrinth. Where

exactly will the door be cut? Who will hold the key? Will it be an exit, or an entrance? Above all, will any of the churches gain or lose an inch of holy stonework? Will it give a rival a precedent?

So far, they have agreed that it will be an exit only. Since Saladin conquered the holy land from the Crusaders, the key has been kept by two Muslim families. The churches trust them, but not each other. That will remain the only entrance.

The logical route is down a corridor, now blocked, that existed during Crusader times. The arches are still visible. But to reach an exit there, you a tiny monastery, built on the would have to go through an iron door and a small room. The Greeks hold the key to the iron door. The Armenians fear that but Mr Mor is not betting on it. pushing a corridor that way The precedents are discour-

to the new exit.

So the Armenians are proposing an alternative route. The Israelis checked, and discovered it would come out in the Al Hanka mosque, which abuts the Christian shrine. The last thing the Israelis want is to bring in the Jerusalem Muslims, which would mean Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority.

Then there is the question of where the other exit will emerge. That will require the consent of two lesser churches. the Copts and the Ethiopians, who have been locked in conflict for the past 20 years over roof of the Holy Sepulchre.

The Israelis are hoping for an answer early in the new year. would give the Greeks more aging. When the cupola soaring

above the Holy Sepulchre was restored earlier this decade, he says, "it took them 30 years to decide what the colour should be". He added: "We work in minutes; they have their own

system of time." The churches have been arguing for 27 years over who should repair the four arches of the rotunda over the tomb of Jesus. The Greeks, the Armenians, the Copts and the Syrian Orthodox all staked a claim. "If you repair," Mr Mor ex-

plained, "you are the owner." In the end, the Religious Affairs Ministry is doing the job, at a cost of \$250,000 to the Israeli taxpayer. The rival patriarchs have signed the plans, but the Syrians are trying to seize another two inches nearer the tomb. Mr Mor goes there every day to make sure nothing is a

Sierra Leone capital attacked

inton

By MARCUS TANNER

WEST AFRICAN peacekeepers repelled a rebel attack on the outskirts of Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, yesterday, shelling the hills around Hastings, the site of the main airport.

On Wednesday the Nigerianled peacekeepers failed to hold on to the central town of Lunsar, 60 miles east of Freetown, prompting claims by the UN representative in Sierra Leone, Francis Okello, that rebel forces had taken control of more than half the territory of the former British colony.

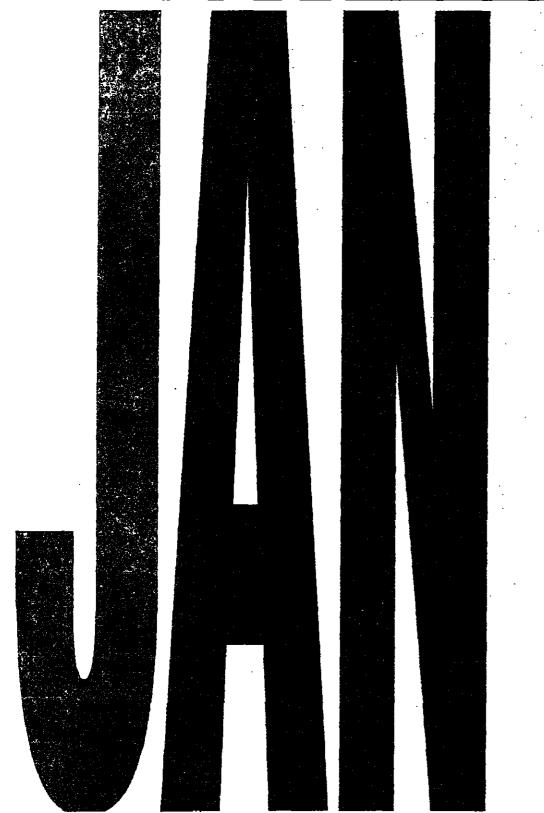
The attack on Hastings came after an assault on another outpost of the capital at Waterloo, 18 miles east of the city. The spokesman for the West African force, Ecomog, said that at least 40 people had been killed in the latest round of fighting.

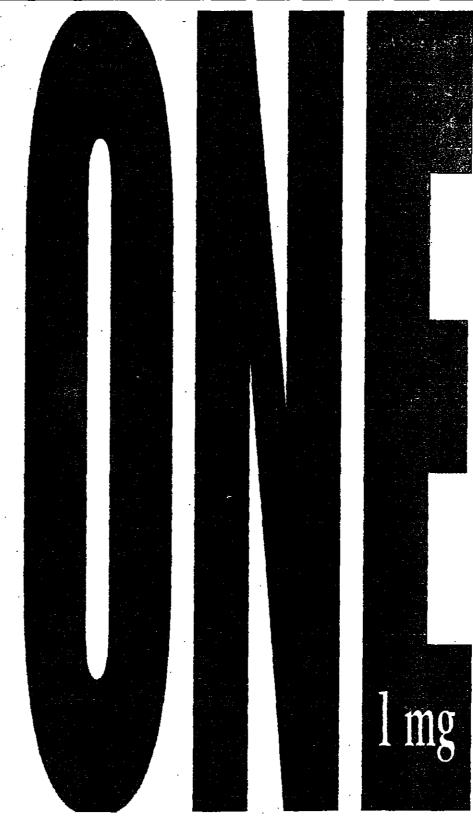
Fighting broke out in Sierra Leone in 1991, and worsened after an army faction in 1997 ousted the elected president, Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. Ecomog restored President Kabbah to power in March, with strong British support, but the fighting has intensified

Sierra Leone's Information Minister, Julius Spencer, yesterday denied that the rebels controlled the whole of the north of Sierra Leone, although he admitted that Lunsar and the northern capital of Makeni were in rebel hands.

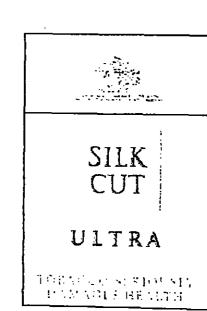
Reinforcements have poured into Sierra Leone from Nigeria more than 7,000 since the weekend, boosting the force to around 17,000. The rebel forces are estimated at 20,000.

The rebels are demanding the removal from power of President Kabbah and the release of their captured leader, Foday Sankoh, who has been sentenced to death in Freetown for treason. Their cause enjoys little support in the capital, owing to what appears a welldeserved reputation for committing atrocities against





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Clinton to escape with censure vote THE CHANCES are rising that
President Bill Clinton will esin Washington cape a fuil-scale impeachment trial. Despite furious protests from some Republicans, the most likely plans all involve a motion of censure, which would finally end the long-running saga in two weeks' time.

The US House of Representatives voted to impeach the President on two counts, but it out between Senator Trent Lott, is the other house of Congress, the Senate Majority Leader and

the Senate, that must try him. Senators, including Republicans, want to resolve the episode as rapidly as possible, given that is seems unlikely the two-thirds majority exists to oust Mr Clinton.

The deal is being thrashed

site number from the Democrats, Tom Daschle, "We're working on this in a way that meets both of our mutual objectives, which in large measure could be defined as doing it fairly and expeditiously," Mr

Daschle said. Mr Lott indicated he saw no need for witnesses, "Are witnesses required? I don't think so," he said.

impeachment - over which House Republicans have laboured for months - is to be ditched by the Senate.

The House Judiciary Committee chairman, Henry Hyde, who ran the impeachment hearings and is one of the managers for the Senate trial, told Mr Lott in a letter that be was concerned that the motion "would unwisely short-circuit

must move with all deliberate speed to resolve this matter," he

"However, we must not act so hastily that the President and the House of Representatives do not have a fair opportunity to present the case and the Senate does not have a fair opportunity to review a meaningful, factual record." It was important that at least a limited number of Some Republican Senators

are also unhappy. "I think the most important thing here is following the constitutional process and that constitutional process is a trial - hopefully, a fair and speedy trial - and the rendering of a judgment," said Senator Phill Gramm, an influential

Texas Republican. Not until next week, when Congress returns to reconvene

become clear.

Despite his travails, Mr Clinton is the man most admired by Americans, according to a poll by CNN, USA Today and Gallup; 18 per cent put Mr Člinton at the top, up from 14 per cent last year. Perhaps it should worry him, though, that other presidents headed the list when things were worst for them: Richard Nixon in 1973 (he was im-

in 1980 (defeated the same year). and Lyndon Johnson in 1968 (he decided not to run again). The next most admired people this year were the Pope, Billy Graham and Michael Jordan

Less surprisingly, Hillary Clinton is the most admired woman by a large margin - 28 per cent - ahead of Oprah Winfrey, Elizabeth Dole and Baroness Thatcher.

Shooting of woman stirs race passions

BY ANDREW GUMBEL in Los Angeles

JUST ABOUT the only certain facts known about Tyisha Miller's death are that one minute she was lying immobile in her car at a Californian petrol station with a pistol in her lap, and that the next a passing police patrol was pumping her and her car full of bullets.

Three days after the 19-yearold black woman was killed in Riverside, 40 miles east of Los Angeles, the case is rousing political and racial passions, with relatives accusing the police of murder and the officers involved failing to produce a satisfactory explanation. It appears Ms Miller pulled

into the petrol station in the early hours of Monday because of a flat tyre. When her cousin, Anthonete Joiner, arrived to help, she found Ms Miller lying in the car with her seat pushed back, the radio blaring and the heating on full blast. According to some reports, she was also foaming at the mouth.

The police arrived in response to an emergency call from Ms Joiner and began pounding on the windows of the car to elicit a response. What happened next is, as yet, unclear, but the result was that Ms Miller and her car were riddled with as many as two dozen rounds of ammunition.

At first the four officers, three whites and one Hispanic, claimed Ms Miller had fired a round from her pistol, but a police spokesman later said that was not certain. Two of the officers have been suspended pending an investigation. Ms Miller's relatives claim

she did not even reach for the gun. "They murdered my niece," said Lenora Butler, an aunt. Local civil rights groups have appealed for calm until the facts become clearer.

Racial tensions were already mounting in Riverside because of a debate about the merits of naming a local high school after Martin Luther King.









A visitor at Leni Riefenstahl's exhibition. Early in her career (top right), she worked for Hitler; now in her nineties (right) she denies any wrongdoing Hans Edinger/AP

Hitler's film-maker is back on show

THE FIRST entry in the visitors' book is succinct: "At last." Another gushes: "A great exhibition in the time of political correctness." "How much injustice was inflicted upon this ingenious artist in post-war

Germany," fulminates a third. Judging by the opinions expressed by punters who trekked out to the Film Museum in Potsdam, the exhibition that all Germany is talking about was long overdue. There is not one dissenting remark in the book, vet outside the museum a debate is raging. There are many who have vowed never to set foot in Potsdam, because they are appalled and

even a little frightened. For the person honoured in her first retrospective as a cinematographer is Leni Riefenstahl: Nazi pin-up, purveyor of propaganda films of the Third Reich, and latterly a photographer of naked Africans and fish. That, admittedly, is too flippant a description of her oeuvre. Riefenstahl is a remarkable

woman who has tried her hand at five different careers in her 96 years, and can never be discounted from launching a sixth, once she recovers from her recent bout of pneumonia.

She has seen a lot and done it all, including having her bottom pinched by Goebbels and Hitler, who both pursued her relentlessly, and might even have bedded her. Mussolini was also a great admirer of her art. But does she deserve the accolade heaped upon her now, ask the sceptics? And if so, why now?

"We are of the opinion that Leni Riefenstahl has played an important - if not the nicest role in German film history," explains the museum's Dorett Molitor. "It was a very courageous decision to put on this exhibition," she continues. "We wanted a discussion."

That they certainly got. But it is one that is being waged by those who have decided to be enraptured by it in advance. and those who will spit at it, unseen, from a great distance. **EUROPEAN TIMES** POTSDAM, GERMANY

already convinced. It is an abiding cliché, ac-

cording to to the catalogue, that There is only so much one Riefenstahl made nothing but stirring Nazi films commissioned by Goebbels' Propaganda Ministry. To set the record straight, several of her stahl was showered with prizes, movies are played on monitors and not just in fascist countries. placed side by side.

the Will, the best of the genre, according to the critics. Despite the monotonous subject - a little Austrian addressing in a rasping voice motionless crowds – the film is mesmerising. Its potency is such that it remains banned in Germany to this day, for fear of raising unhealthy political passions. Olympia, Riefenstahl's film about the 1936 Berlin

Neither side will convince the Olympic Games, plays to the other, because both sides are left. The special effects are more advanced, but the subject matter even more tedious. wants to see of discus throwers. But back in those days, this film was ahead of its contemporaries in technique. Riefen-

These are displayed in the In a long, narrow room, company of Riefenstahl's other Hitler is screaming from one stabs at entertainment. While screen. That is Triumph of Hitler is yelling from one screen, and the swimmers take a dive on the other, some excruciating melodramas are unfolding just a few feet away. There is the Blue Light, a film whose supernatural plot is too embarrassing to relate. Or Tiefland, the Spanish romance in which the Pyrenees meet the Tyrol in a universe of kitsch, populated by happy peasants and heart-broken

gypsy girls. Riefenstahl picked Olympia, and little to do with the gypsies from a camp. No more can be said on this subject, because Riefenstahl has lavished much of her Propaganda Ministry earnings on expensive lawyers. She has spent the past 50 years suing anybody who dares to mention where those gypsies might have ended up during the Holocaust.

So let us hastily move on. The point is that, apart from the two stirring films paid for into sharp focus her claim that, had she not been put out of the film-making business after the war, she might have been another Fellini. Her films are so bad, they deserve cult

As for those muscle-bound, glinting bodies she photographed in Africa in her later years, the less said the better. They have much in common with the fascist representation of discus-throwers of

the human race, presented as they are in the manner one would admire a splendid racehorse. In other words; bestial.

All this has been said and written before about her work, which is why Riefenstahl has had to wait until now for her first full retrospective. She has helped to provide the exhibits, ensuring they present her in a favourable light. She has waited more than 50 years for rehabilitation, so it is ironic that by Goebbels, Riefenstahl's it should come from an east works are plain silly. They put German museum run by leftleaning feminists.

> They have their own reasons. They are trying to fill the void left by communism, and in the process are finding it hard to distinguish between taboos ordained by the wicked state and those imposed by conscience. "We want a new treatment of our history," says Ms Molitor. Leni Riefenstahl, an expert at new treatments. is happy to oblige.

> > IMRE KARACS

Castro celebrates 40 years in power

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

BATTERED BUT unbowed after 40 years in power, Fidel Castro will deliver a celebratory anniversary address tonight in the same square in Santiago de Cuba where he proclaimed victory over the dictator Fulgencio

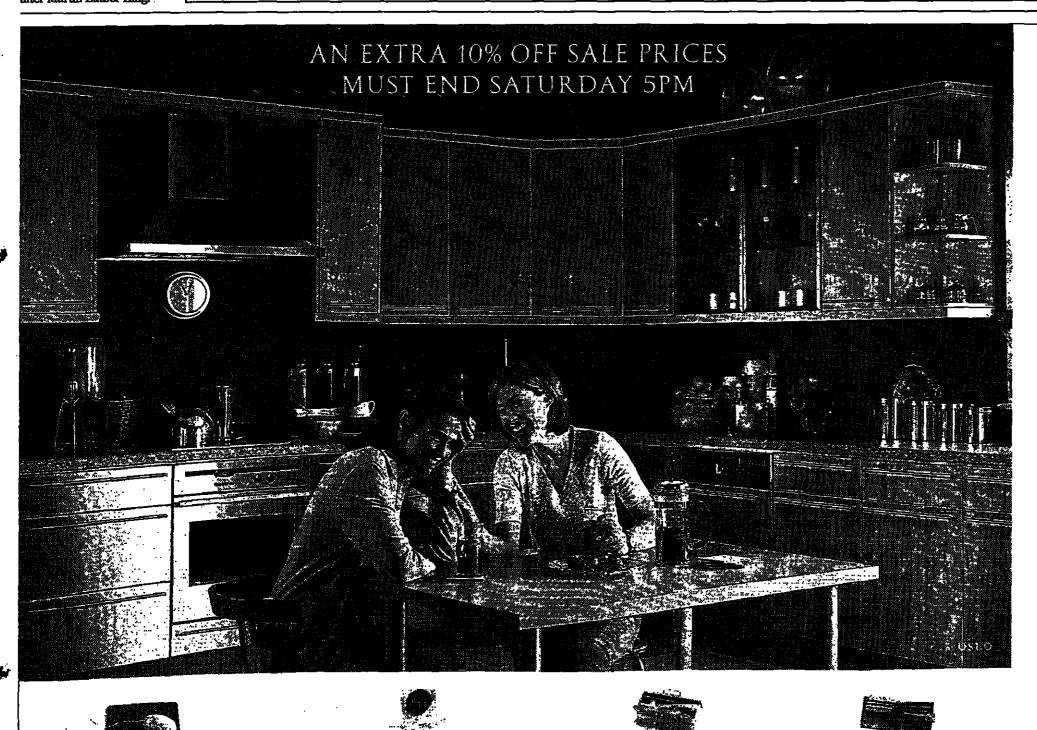
Batista on 1 January 1959. The speech will be the climax of a week in which the Cuban state-run media has focused on the birth of the socialist regime, which has withstood 36 years of trade embargo from America and the collapse and disappearance of the Soviet Union, the island's protector and economic patron.

Amid continuing economic hardship and harsh state treatment of dissent, public feelings have been muted. But the media has had a field day, mocking Washington for the decades of predictions of Castro's demise, and publishing letters of congratulation from the Pope and leaders from around the world.

"Under your leadership," Cuba had achieved "new successes in the struggle to safeguard national independence ... and has persisted in the socialist path", the Chinese President, Jiang Zemin, wrote to Castro, one of the last Communist leaders and among the longest surviving rulers of any ideological persuasion.

Castro's triumph in the twoyear civil war was sealed by Ernesto "Che" Guevara's successful attack on the central city of Santa Clara on 28 December 1958, and by the almost simultaneous fall of Santiago de Cuba in the east of the island.

Since 1960, the regime has been under economic, and at times military attack from the US. But that very pressure has enabled him to draw upon Cuba's fierce nationalism for support. Long a hero in much of the Third World, Castro is now largely seen even by his own people as a man whose time is past. But, apart from periodic rumours about his health, he appears as firmly in control as ever.



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new 2nd November and 36th December 1990. "When you spread ELGO on a hashes purchase contailing mountaines fully unsersed Indonesian When you have been passed to the property of the control of the contr

Sterling and dollar slip at the start

EXCHANGE RATES

THE PRECISE exchange rates By DIANE COYLE at which 11 member currencies are locked against the euro were published yesterday, ahead of the midnight about 1.42 euros at the current launch of the new European

single currency. The ceremonies creating an economic superpower to rival the United States were clouded, however, by the reopening of a festering disagreement over the presidency of the European Central Bank (ECB). The ministers gathered in Brussels - excluding Gordon Brown and Germany's Oskar Lafontaine – made a determined effort to damp down the

Economics Editor

The pound, which will buy a sense of anti-climax. exchange rate, lost value, as did the dollar after the official publication of the conversion rates. The dollar was trading at an initial value of \$1.1685 to the euro.

Many analysts believe the pound and dollar will weaken further against the new currency when trading picks up in the new year.

markets were closed, and the foreign exchanges and bond markets were exceedingly sublatest eruption of the dispute. dued. In the City, where tech-

nical steps to implement the conversion got into full swing at lunchtime yesterday, there was

"It's like the aftermath of an elaborate wedding. It was a symbolic moment, but it's the least important part of the marriage," said Alison Cottrell, an analyst at PaineWebber.

One less-than-enthusiastic trader said: "It's New Year's Eve and we all just want to get to our parties." The formal rates were close

The main European stock to the end-of-year market rates, and therefore sprang no surprises on the financial markets. Some volatility is expected on the foreign exchanges next

the longer term, most analysts expect the pound to fall against bank

the euro. "When we come back on Monday, sterling will be a small from being the biggest European currency," said Ms Cottrell.

Investors - including central foreign exchange reserves – are expected to sell dollars and sterling to boost their holdings of euros. "There is a very good case for believing the euro will

week as investors and dealers be a strong currency," said Ian May, but would instead stay get accustomed to the euro. In Harwood of Dresdner Klein- on for more of his eight-year wort Benson, the investment

contrary view that the pound will strengthen as investors currency. It's a huge change seek a safe haven against the

The French government insisted yesterday that Wim banks seeking to adjust their Duisenberg, the ECB's president, must step down after four years in favour of a French

Mr Duisenberg had said, in an interview published in Le he would not stick to the fouryear compromise struck last

Jean-Claude Juncker, Prime Just a few analysts hold the Minister of Luxembourg, probably spoke for the rest of the EU governments when he arrived at the historic finance ministers' meeting yesterday. "It's not of overwhelming political intelligence to reopen the debate," he said.

France's stubbornness in insisting last spring that Jean-Claude Trichet, the Banque de France governor, should get the ECB job had exasperated other

Monde yesterday morning, that member governments. But equally, most will despair of Mr Duisenberg's sense of timing.

The controversy-prone central banker said yesterday - a day too late - that from now on he would have no comment about the question.

A spokesman for the European Central Bank in Frankfurt insisted: "His contract runs for the full eight years and that is

But Domingue Strass-Kahn, France's Finance Minister, referred back to Mr Duisenberg's indication last May that he did intend to step down early. "His comments were enshrined in writing, they are public and

One Euro Equals: 1.95583 Deutschemarks 6.55957 French francs 1936.27 Italian lire 166.386 Spanish pesetas 200,482 Portuguese escudos 5.94573. Finnish markka 0.787564 Irish punts 40.3399 BelglarV Luxembourg francs 2.20371 Outch guilders 13.7603 Austrian schillings

everybody knows them, and therefore I see no reason to fear that Mr Duisenberg will not

Europe on a high, Britain still low key

VIEW FROM BRUSSELS

fluttering, but inside the Coun- AND KATHERINE BUTLER cil of Ministers building in Brus- in Brussels sels, Britain's briefing room had been turned into a makeshift TV Italy. That is how I feel today." set, complete with make-up facilities. With no Treasury minister attending there was, Irish Finance Minister who explained one official, little had left his sick-bed. Suffering prospect of the UK having any-thing very much to say. from a particularly virulent strain of 'flu Mr McCreevy thing very much to say.

and the British presence was deliberately minimalist. Gor- ceremony did not involve a don Brown, the Chancellor, drug test. He added that monelected not to join the gathering of finance ministers. leav- Irish marriage before the ing the job of representing the divorce referendum. Once you UK to the British ambassador are in, you're in for life." to the EU. Sir Stephen Wall.

because the meeting was purely "procedural". But Britain was alone among the 15 EU member states to be represented by its ambassador.

By contrast Denmark, Sweden and Greece, which are also staying out of the first wave, sent ministers, two of whom joined the rhetorical euphoria and outlined ambi- to salute his contribution. tions to join the euro.

only or even the most prominent, were the scores of eight-yearabsentee. Oskar Lafontaine, olds from European schools Germany's Finance Minister, dressed in plastic capes and refused to break his family hol- drafted in to release 3,000 blue iday and is thought to be sunning himself somewhere in Florida. His embarrassed deputy. Werner Müller, the Economic minister, was forced to explain. "Some six months ago," Mr Müller told a press conference, "the current finance minister booked a holiday in a very distant area with his wife and children and was not in a position to break it."As if to punish Mr Lafontaine for his absence, his fellow finance ministers indulged in a chorus of appreciation of his predecessor, Theo Waigel, praising his contribution to the birth of the euro.

Uniquely, the finance ministers' meeting was televised, signifying that the decisions had long since been taken, and allowing the politicians to concentrate on what they do best: outbidding each other in their rhetoric. France's Dominique Strauss-Kahn spoke of "an historic day for the European The clear winner was Wim enterprise". Carlo Azeglio Duisenberg, president of the Ciampi of Italy, argued: "This European Central Bank, who is a milestone in Europe's his- was the first to pop his cork. At tory, a project which might, at this particular moment in histimes, have seemed Utopian," With a final flourish he added: dent of the European

OUTSIDE THE Union Jack was By STEPHEN CASTLE

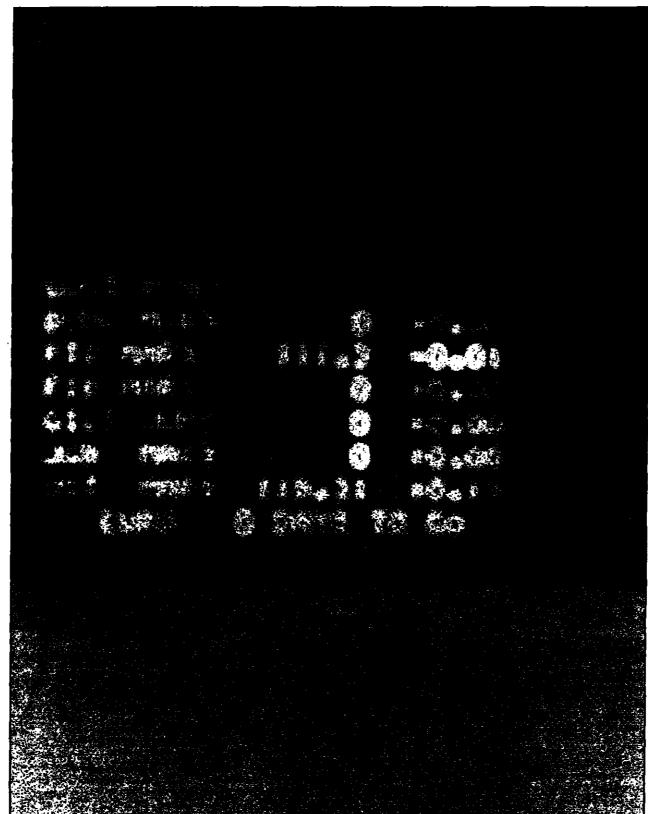
There was less euphoria from Charlie McCreevy, the History was in the making joked that he was so doped it was fortunate that the signing etary union was "a bit like an

But rhetoric, rather than According to the Treasury, realism, was the order of the the Chancellor stayed away day and such was the sentiment of the occasion that there was even a heart-felt tribute to a senior Treasury mandarin. Sir Nigel Wicks has chaired the monetary committee that has been instrumental in the preparations for today's launch. To his evident embarrassment, finance ministers broke into a round of applause

The only ones displaying Not that Mr Brown was the higher levels of excitement and yellow balloons from the courtvard of EU headquarters at precisely 1.55pm local time, five

minutes after the formal signing. Jean Louis Fourmy, of the Brussels company that provided the balloons, said they symbolised prosperity rather than soaraway inflation as some sceptics had suggested. "Normally for celebrations we would let off 10,000 balloons, but we were only asked for 3,000. I think it's because they left it so late to organise," Mr Fourmy said. And some sources said there were only 2,900 balloons.

But the best image of the day came late on, as the ministers struggled to open the salmanazars, 9-litre bottles of Feuillate champagne from Epernay. Mysteriously, Commission officials drafted in the same brand that is drunk in the White House but had not investigated the logistics of prising open such large bottles. tory Jacques Santer, Presi-"I am proud to call myself a Commission, was still grap-



A trader at the City of London offices of Nomura, the Japanese securities house, yesterday

Business to pay \$51bn for change

VIEW FROM THE CITY

New Year's Eve was cancelled Financial Editor yesterday for tens of thousands of City staff as the big financial institutions mobilised to ensure that they are up and running when dealing starts in the euro on Monday. With little more than 75 hours

from the moment that exchange rates were fixed on New Year's Eve for the 11 currencies being subsumed into the euro to the opening of Tokyo's foreign exchange market in the early hours of Monday, exhaustive plans have been made to ensure

everything goes without a hitch. During that time \$2,100bn (£1,312bn) of government securities and worldwide bank deposits worth \$460bn will have to be converted from the "legacy" currencies - German marks. French francs, Italian lire and so on - to euros.

The total private sector bili for the changeover has been put at **\$**51bn_

The conversion is relatively simple. Colin Stringer, head of Euro services at Cap Gemini, the IT consulting firm, says: "It is like changing from Fahrenheit to Celsius, the temperature does not change."

The difficulty arises from the heer scale of the operation, and the fact that no one can afford for it to go wrong.

The US investment bank staff around the clock in London and New York this weekend, estimates that no fewer than 5000 "milestones" will have to be passed before it can be satisfied that the bank can trade euros without a hitch.

"It will affect client statements, client balances, trading positions, cash balances and historical data," explains Mitch Chivers, Merrill Lynch's global euro co-ordinator. "There is the considerable task of redenominating debt."

The changeover will affect almost every market, even those in currencies that are not directly involved in the single currency. Sterling, for instance, will no longer be quoted against marks but against euros.

As well as currencies and government bonds, share prices will have to be repriced in euros, even though legally clients will still be able to settle in national currencies if they wish.

Staff at banks in Tokyo and New York will also be in their offices this weekend, although London, because of its unique position as the centre of in-

THE TRADITIONAL revelry of BY ANDREW GARFIELD

and bond trading, will be where most activity is concentrated. Nor is it just computer systems staff who will miss the New Year festivities.

Traders, settlement and back office staff will all have to be in to ensure that they are ready, while in many cases top management will be on hand to troubleshoot and encourage the troops.

To ensure that key staff are able to get to work the Corporation of London is paying London Underground to keep the Waterloo and City line open on New Year's Day, while the Rotherhithe tunnel, an important link for those working in Canary Wharf, will be kept open for the weekend. There will also be 3,500 free parking spaces in the

Hotel rooms across London have been block-booked months ahead to provide accommodation. Minibuses for office staff have been laid on.

Firms are also providing round-the-clock catering, while pubs, restaurants and coffee bars in the City and Canary Wharf, which would normally be closed over the Bank Holi

day weekend, will be open. The Bank of England has won plaudits from institutions Merrill Lynch, which will use 900 for the way it has managed the preparations, an irony given the far from Europhile views of Eddie George, the Governor.

Mr Stringer says that while the big firms have been planning for this weekend for 18 months or more and are justifiably confident they have done all they can, the worry is about what he calls the "lemmiches", a cross between a lemming and an ostrich. "A number of smaller players are in a state of denial about EMU. For them," he says, "it is already too

Most experts are discounting the meltdown scenario, particularly as they expect, for a week at least, trading to be tentative while investors hang back to be sure that the glitches have definitely been ironed out before risking their

What the big houses are seeking to avoid is payments going astray or settlement systems not being able to cope. Most of all, they fear that their computer people will still be running the checks when the clients start to ring on the ternational foreign exchange murky dawn of January 4.

Founder's currency dream comes true

BY NICK ANTONOVICS

MANY HAVE played a part in Europe's monetary union project but Pierre Werner can justifiably claim to have started it.

Werner, then prime minister of Luxembourg, first advocated a European currency, which he called the Euror, in a speech in Strasbourg in 1960.

Thirty-eight years later, he European countries to start a currency union, which still exists. It is simply to put an end which started in Europe."

Mr Werner remembered the 1930s, when "everyone wanted to protect themselves and devalue to promote exports". He come up with an official bluehecame interested in a proposal

WERNER'S VISION

Collin, for wider use of a common unit of account in the new European Community. "I believed that if [the 1930s] hapshambles - we would have

monetary war." After becoming prime mintold Reuters in an interview. ister in 1959, he took up the "There was a historical need for cause publicly. But it was not until the late 1960s, after sterling's November 1967 devaluation, and signs of trouble in the to the periodic world wars Bretton Woods system of fixed exchange rates, that other

member states took an interest. Mr Werner was appointed chairman of a committee to print, which was presented in

by a Belgian banker, Fernand 1970 and endorsed by European leaders in March 1971. It called on the bloc to achieve a full monetary union by 1980.

The Werner Plan advocated pened again it would be a a central economic policymaking body and a system of central banks. Aspects of national budgets, such as the "size of balances and the methods of financing or utilising them", would be fixed at EU level, and decisions would be accountable to the European Parliament.

The first stage of the plan was set in motion in 1972, but by 1974 it had foundered under the combined weight of the 1971 collapse of Bretton Woods and the 1973 oil shock. Mr Werner told Reuters he



currency could end wars

was optimistic that the euro would last, noting that EU governments were more willing to negotiate and compromise than their predecessors.

Mr Werner's role was honoured yesterday when he received the first copy of the EU's Official Journal, legally enacting the conversion rates

No escape from currency that will rule our common market

By Michael Harrison

BRITAIN MIGHT not be a founder member of the "eurozone" but the launch of the single currency will nevertheless have a profound effect on British business.

Although outside the singlecurrency bloc, from today companies here will be able to account, issue shares and pay their taxes in euros. A small number may even offer to pay

their employees partly in euros. Most surveys show that British businesses favour entry to the single currency by a three to one. There is a small but vociferous band, led by figures such as the Dixons chairman Sir Stanley Kalms, who are implacably opposed, more for political and philosophical rea**FUTURE FOR BUSINESS**

sons than because they fear it will be bad for business.

But the majority of companies - both large and small sense that it would be in their business interests for Britain to be in. For that reason, they are as sterling's value against the likely to embrace the euro. meaning that Britain, to some extent, will become a de facto member of the single currency.

In any event, not being a member of monetary union does not mean British business can ignore its arrival or escape its impact. The European Union, with its 320 million customers, is our biggest single trading partner, accounting for some 55 per cent of all UK trade est and lowest prices is as high

From a practical standpoint. businesses will be affected in two main ways. First they will have to get used to being paid in euros - which means shouldering the exchange rate risk

new currency bobs around. Second. British companies are unlikely to be immune from the increased harmonisation of prices across Europe that the

single currency produces. According to the latest survey of readiness for the single currency by the consultants KPMG, two-thirds of companies price variably across Europe and the gap between the highas 57 per cent. "This means that

in a significant revenue squeeze for many companies," says Michael Littlechild, a partner with KPMG Consulting

The survey also shows that two-thirds of businesses across Europe expect prices to fall with the introduction of the euro. Only 30 per cent think it will mean higher profits in the short term but in the longer term 77 per cent think the impact will be positive.

Douglas Godden, head of economic policy at the Confederation of British Industry, said: "There will be a process of convergence as prices become more transparent. The euro will also mean more trade across borders and that means more competition, which will tend to lead to price convergence."

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Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098 E-mail: IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk

BUSINESS

BRIEFING

C&W unit cuts phone rates

HONGKONG TELECOM, the unit of Cable & Wireless which had a monopoly of the Hong Kong market until three years ago, has been given permission to cut long-distance call rates from today, to help it meet competition from more than 20 smaller competitors who have entered the market to undercut Hongkong Telecom's telephone tariffs. The competitors themselves are now being given the opportunity to lease lines from Hongkong Telecom. Hongkong Telecom is expected to announce plans to cut some charges on Monday, others may be deferred until after an advertising and publicity campaign, a spokesman

BAT Russian sales light up



"THERE IS an opportunity in every crisis", according to Sergei Krasnov. managing director of **BAT's Moscow cigarette** factory. Output slumped after Russia defaulted on its debts last July but since October has been back to pre-crisis levels. Russians smoke 250 billion cigarettes a year and BAT took a 10 per cent market

share in 1997. Rothmans. the RJ Reynolds division of RJR Nabisco, and Philip Morris have all renewed their commitment to the Russian market, and Philip Morris is continuing to build a \$330m factory outside St Petersburg.

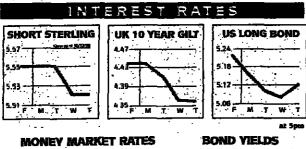
Merger victory for Redwood

REDWOOD yesterday said its merger offer for rival Lloyd's insurance underwriter New London Capital had been declared unconditional following overwhelming acceptances from shareholders. The company said it had received the backing of shareholders representing 91.0 per cent of New London's share capital by the first closing date of the offer on 30 December. The merger was approved by Ockham shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting the same day. Under the deal, announced earlier this month, New London shareholders will receive new Ockham shares accounting for 57 per cent of the enlarged share capital of Ockham. Ockham is offering six new shares and 10p for every five New London shares held.

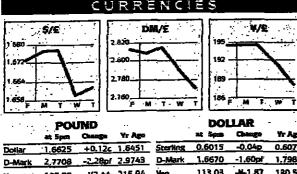
Separately, Redwood group said it had acceptances from shareholders representing over 83 per cent of Glasgowbased engineering firm Clyde Blowers by 30 December. Redwood announced an agreed bid of 165p cash per share for Clyde last month, valuing the company at around

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FTSE All Share	2673.92	0.00	0.00	2886.52	2143.53	3.48
FISE SmallCap	2070.90	0.00	0.00	2793.80	1834.40	4.06
FTSE Fledgiling	1146.40	0.00	0.00	1517.10	1046,20	0.00
FTSE AIM	801.60	0.00	0.00	1146.90	761.30	0.00
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US	5.07	-0.75	5.10	-0.87	4.68		5.12	
Japan	0,54	-0.23	0.58	-0.15	2.22	0.27	2.97	0.40
Germany	3.22	-0.42	3,20	-0.73	3.87	-1,49	4.78	-1.17
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TOURIST RATES

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Malta (lira)

Australia (5)	2.6493	Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.91
Austria (schillings)	19.13	Netherlands (guilders)	3.0678
Belgium (francs)	56.26	New Zealand (S)	3.0661
Canada (\$)	2.5375	Norway (krone)	12.34
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8048	Portugal (escudos)	278.08
Denmark (krone)	10.43	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.1173
Finland (markka)	8.3053	Singapore (\$)	2.6586
France (francs)	9,1352	Spain (pesetas)	231.60
Germany (marks)	2.7362	South Africa (rands)	9.4978
Greece (drachma)	458.85	Sweden (krone)	: 13 <u>.27</u>
Hong Kong (5)	12.61	Switzerland (francs)	2.2346
Ireland (punts)	1.0946	Thailand (bahts)	56.39
Indian (rupees)	64.18	Turkey (lirest)	507854
Israel (shekels)	6.4941	USA (S)	1.6399
Italy (lira)	2711	• .	
Japan (yen)	189.63	Rates for indication purpo	ses only
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.1169		
Maita (lira)	0.6110	Source: Thomas Cook	٠.

Euro raises chance of supermarket price war

CONTINENTAL discount super- By NIGEL COPE markets such as Aldi and Lidl could use euro buying power to such as the UK, according to a report published today.

group European Insight claims that retailers such as Aldi. which is one of Germany's biggest supermarket operators, could choose to pass on the

Associate City Editor

launch a price war in markets buying gains in the form of even deeper discounts.

The move would place A study by the consultancy Britain's beleaguered supermarket sector under further pressure. It is already the subject of an Office of Fair Trading investigation into alleged profiteering and there has been a

growing backlash against some prices of consumer goods in the UK compared with those on the Continent.

Aldi has been growing steadily in this country after opening its first stores here in 1990. It offers rock-bottom prices by using little-known brands in a basic store environment

The study claims that Marks & Spencer also has a strategic

opportunity to take advantage of the report says. The study uncertainty over monetary names Marks & Spencer, Aldi union. It is already ahead of many other UK retailers in its euro preparations as it is in the process of converting all its tills to take the new currency.

"If it can shrug off its other problems, it can reinforce its traditional brand strengths and become the most trusted retailer across the euro zone,"

and Ikea as top of the "trust league". These are the compa-

new currency comes into effect. and Aldi both do well. Those least

trusted in the UK are the oil companies BP, Esso and Shell.

Ikea, the Swedish home furnishings retailer, scored well nies consumers feel are most across Europe. Benetton likely to adopt "transparent" showed marked regional difpricing across Europe when the ferences, doing well in some markets but appearing among In the UK the top retailers are the "most distrusted" retailers M&S, WH Smith, Boots and in France. Kingfisher, the UK Sainsbury's, while John Lewis retail group, also did well in the

British. economy already in downturn says **Deutsche**

By DIANE COYLE **Economics Editor**

THE BRITISH ECONOMY is already in recession, a leading City economist claims in a report today.

The official figure for gross domestic product due to be published later this month is likely to show that output fell in the final quarter of 1998. Virtually every expert is also predicting a further decline in the first quarter of 1999, with two successive quarters of falling output the technical definition of a recession.

This would severely embarrass the Chancellor, who was criticised for over-optimism about the economy in November's Pre-Budget Report. A drop in GDP would almost certainly force the Treasury to downgrade its growth forecast for this year in the March Budget.

The new report from Deutsche Bank says GDP in the October-December quarter will have fallen for the first time since mid-1992, marking the end of seven years of economic expansion.

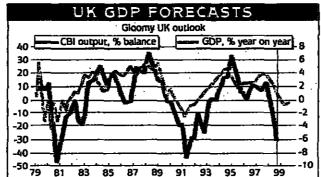
Business and retail surveys for November and December have shown a dramatic decline in activity.

The pace of the slowdown means the Bank of England will have to cut interest rates to 4.5 per cent from the current level of 6.25 per cent by the middle of this year, according to Steven Bell, Deutsche Bank's chief UK economist.

Although the Office for National Statistics will need to estimate some of the components of GDP for its preliminary figure due on 22 January, the best it could report is no change, according to Mr Bell. A negative figure would be much more likely. "This would make the Treasury growth forecast implausible," he said.

He added that the Budget would also have to contain much worse figures for government borrowing than published in November.





His gloomy prediction is supported by the latest monthly estimate of GDP published by the independent National Institute for Economic and

Social Research. It showed GDP flat in the three months to November. and December is likely to have

been a weaker month. The National Institute is currently predicting growth of about 1 per cent in 1999. Deutsche Bank expects

GDP growth of minus 0.2 per cent for 1999 as a whole, in one of the gloomiest forecasts for the UK so far.

Even so, by past standards this would be a mild recession for the UK. A big increase in public spending in 1999, the weaker pound and cuts in interest rates will prevent a deeper downturn, in the absence of any serious overseas

Martin Weale, head of the National Institute, agreed with this basically benign view. "Monetary policy has been loosened quite a lot already. This should be about as bad as it gets," he said.

The Bank of England has cut rates by 1.25 percentage points since October.

The Bank's Monetary Policy Committee next meets on 6-7 January, and is expected either to leave rates unchanged or cut them by a quarter point.

Collapsed futures broker attracts rescuers

GHF, an American futures broker, has offered to take over Griffin Trading Company, the London branch of the Chicago futures broker which filed for bankruptcy in the US on Wednesday night after £6.25m of losses were incurred by John Park, a futures dealer for whom it acted as broker.

Interest has also been expressed by GNI, the commodities broker, and MeesPierson, the Dutch bank which handled clearing through its Frankfurt office for Mr Park's German bond futures dealings.

GHF has offered to pay the 80 locals who have lost money as a result of Griffin's collapse 50p in the pound, which would enable the vast majority of them to resume trading. The locals, or independent traders, had sums ranging between £15,000 and £1m deposited in a segregated account, but they have been unable to access their funds because they have been seized by MeesPierson.

Some are facing personal ruin and are appalled at the failure of the existing regulations to prevent their funds being used to cover liabilities which they have not incurred.

"There is no way we can earn a living. There are guys of 35 with kiddies whose houses are going to be repossessed." said one trader who has been hit by Griffin's collapse. "People are talking about suicide. We understand that what is allowed in London would never be allowed in any other finan-

cial centre." The Financial Services Authority was yesterday seeking to question Mr Park in an attempt to get to the bottom of why he continued buying German bund futures beyond the limits of what he had collateral to fund, and why he chose to funnel his deals through more than one broker. To use the same collateral to back more than one deal would be illegal.

The Korean-born Mr Park, who operated out of Griffin's City of London offices, was not returning calls either to his office or to his residence in Eaton Place, in Knightsbridge, west London.

Questions are being asked about how Griffin, a respected Chicago broker with three generations behind it, could have gone down for an amount as relatively trifling as £6.25m. The firm is owned by Roger and Tex Griffin, both wealthy individuals in their own right. An ear-

lier member of the firm was a member of the board at the Chicago Board of Trade.

According to one account, the firm had \$100m in assets. One theory circulating in the City yesterday was that the reserves had been run down ahead of the year end in order to minimise potential tax

Last week, just before it applied to withdraw its membership of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Griffin transferred all its trading positions to another firm, Kotke Associates LLC "for

book-keeping purposes". Traders familiar with the firm said yesterday that Roger Griffin had been badly hit by the suicide of his son last year and may not have been fully focussed on the business.

Griffin sold three of its four seats on the CBOT recently.

There has been criticism of the management of the London operation, which was unaware of the extent of Mr Park's German futures market dealings until it was too late.

One market source described the firm as having been "a shambles" since the departure last year of Peggy Ogurek. who ran the office but decided to return to the US for personal reasons. Investigators from the FSA

will be keen to know how Mr Park was able to trade beyond his financial resources without the knowledge of his prime broker After being called in by

Griffin on 22 December, Liffe. the London International Futures and Options Exchange, sought to put together a lifeboat to take on Griffin's lossmaking positions, as in the last similar crisis when Drexel, the American broker linked to Michael Milken, the junk bond king, collapsed.

The Financial Services Authority may now have to look again at the rules governing segregated accounts in the light of the Griffin Affair. The client money held by Griffin was put in a single "omnibus" account, which meant that money deposited by one client could readily be used to cover margin calls incurred by another client.

An FSA spokeswoman said: "This is the first time we are aware of any problems arising from the existence of omnibus accounts. But rules are not set

Internet bubble 'about to burst'

THE ERA of gravity-defying Internet stock valuations will come to an end in 1999, according to a firm that tracks information technology and its use by consumers.

A correction will create winners and losers in the Internet market, intensifying competitive pressure and driving companies to consolidate, the US-based consultancy International Data Corporation said yesterday. Frank Gens, senior vice-

president of Internet research at IDC, said: "In the birth of the PC business 15 or 20 years ago, people were excited, billion-

NEW YORK

TRADING in US shares was

down 0.6 per cent at 9,217.

the nedge fund DE Shaw.

rallied by over 38 per cent.

focusing firmly on today's launch of

the euro. In midday trading, the

Dow Jones Industrial Average was

BankAmerica fell over 2 per cent,

on fears that it will report a fourth

quarter loss due to its exposure to

After a rollercoaster year, the

this time last year. The Nasdaq has

Dow is still 17 per cent ahead of

aires would be created, but the number of companies that lived up to the big expectations were measured in handfuls, rather than thousands."

It would take only a few negative announcements, such as earnings disappointments, to "let the air out of the balloon," Mr Gens said, but after that the best Internet companies will continue to have high valuations. These would include the likes of Amazon.com, E*Trade Group, Yahoo! and America

> Mr Gens thinks heightened competition could lead Yahoo!,

a dominant Web "portal" or money, growing fast, they're a entry point for consumers, to be acquired by a media company such as Time Warner or CBS. They could step into the big leagues of media, not just the Internet, but media in general."

Time Warner's chairman, Gerald Levin, said in July that the company had no interest in buying Internet companies such as Yahoo!, and a CBS spokesman would not comment on speculation. The online broker E*Trade

could sell out to a large finan-Wells Fargo. "They're making tal, Mr Gens suggested.

broker, such as Ameritrade Holding, in 1999. An E*Trade spokesman said only that the company "can be a player in this marketplace through the ups and downs of any cycle," but declined to com-

category leader and their price

to earnings ratio looks cheap on

the Internet stock scale," Mr

Gens said. He is convinced that

E*Irade will either be acquired

or acquire a smaller online

ment on possible mergers. The software group Microcial firm such as Citigroup or soft might buy a major Web por-

RUSSIAN SHARES were little changed for the eighth consecutive day, with the benchmark RTS index closing down 0.8 per cent, a drop of over 80 per cent for the year.

■ MOSCOW

Traders said the government needs to prove it can stabilise the macroeconomic situation. successfully restructure domestic debt, and pay interest on its Eurobond obligations. People have written off Russia for the moment," said one analyst.

JOHANNESBURG

WEAK NOVEMBER money supply figures saw South African shares drift slightly lower yesterday. By the close of trading, the All Share Index had dipped 0.1 per cent to 5,430, a 12 per cent fall for the year, and 35 per cent down on the peak in April 1997.

Anglogold, the mining company, shed 2.8 per cent, as a result of a lacklustre bullion price, while bank shares slid after strong moneysupply growth figures raised concerns that interest rate reductions might be delayed.

1 per cent.

HONG KONG STOCKS finished lower extremely light yesterday ahead of the holiday weekend, with investors

vesterday, with most investors on the sidelines ahead of the new year boliday. The Hang Seng Index slipped 0.7 per cent, to close at 10,048.58. Over the year the index has fallen 6.3 per

Analysts are expecting Hong Kong stocks to drift lower in the first and second quarters of next year, because of weak economic fundamentals and poor corporate earnings.

SINGAPORE

THE STRAITS TIMES Index ended the year on a softer note yesterday. down 0.1 per cent at 1,393, a 7 per cent fall on the year.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

Dealers said the closing price, above the 1,400 psychological barrier, was significant. "As long as it stayed above 1,250 by the close of the year, we could see it at the 1,900 to 2,000 levels next year," said one analyst, who expects buying interest to emerge in the new year. Brilliant Manufacturing, the most actively traded stock, closed down

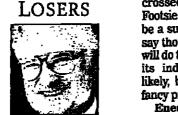
Telecoms was the name of the game

IT'S RARE INDEED for a Footsie constituent to emerge as the best performing share of the year. Step forward Colt Telecom, which has comfortably out-dialled the rest of the stock market with an astonishing 500 per cent advance.

Normally it is an obscure, tertiary share which claims top spot. Last year it was Shield Diagnostic with a 410 per cent gain.

But in some respects, Colt runs true to form. It may enjoy a £5.5bn capitalisation yet it is still a fledgling, blue-sky operation which is a long way from achieving anything quite so crude as a profit.

Still telecoms was the name of the investment game in 1998, and Colt's remarkable progress - it arrived at the equivalent of 67p nearly two years ago - is a dramatic exWINNERS AND



PAIN

shares are currently adored on both sides of the Atlantic.

Colt's progress in the year was achieved despite its loss hitting a new high - £32.5m. Indeed losses are expected to increase. The consensus forecast for this year is £60m and the investment house BT Alex.Brown sees the deficit widening to £85m in the year

has got its wires completely crossed, Colt, which joined Footsie during the year, should, be a sure-fire money-spinner, say those who should know. It will do this either by retaining its independence or more fancy price.

Energis, another fledgling telecom group which in the eyes of some analysts would be an ideal merger partner for the bigger Colt, captured second place, up 422 per cent, in a year when Footsie scored a 15 per cent advance.

It has had an even shorter market life than Colt, having been hived off from National Grid a year ago. And, like its bigger rival, it too has yet to scent the merest suggestion of making money, losing £62m in the year to March. But analysts

2000. But, unless the market occur rather more quickly than Colt's with, perhaps, a modest return in the year 2000.

Other telecoms buzzed. Orange, with a 164 per cent gain, and Telewest Communications, 150 per cent, just failed to get into the year's top likely, being taken over at a 10. Even such a power as BT. on past form far too big ever to hit the winners table, joined the telephony party, with a near 90 per cent surge. Gresham Computing, a

software group with an erratic record, slipped into the top 10 at number three. But some longtime shareholders have yet to get their money back. In one of the earlier market computer surges the shares, on takeover and trading hopes, nudged 200p.

Just to prove there is life in some of the battered and bruised engineers, Cammeli Laird, once a famed Mersey-

price 9.5p Colt Telecom 896.5p 500 Cortecs Energis 422 2.5p 0.5p Gresham Comp 101:5p T ... 360 Cammeli Ld 682.5p 325 1.25p Ind Energy 512,5p 307 215p 327.5p 264 Pibernet 171.5p 258 Fieldens 86.5p 226 12p 463.5p 191 3.25p Sherwood Int 1355p 178 33p

side shipbuilder, captured fourth place.

Fibernet, with a national communications network, is another blue sky share; so is Phytopharm, seeking to produce drugs from plants. Independent Energy, still

below its best level, is benefiting from the freeing up of the domestic electricity and gas markets and has announced its first profit.

The bottom 10 represents yet another collection of sad, losers, demonstrating that failen hopes. Cortecs is a drugs

group which, like so many of from a particular industry the breed, was over-hyped with 1996. It's been all downhill since then although there have progress reports.

Cadoro is the Capolito Roma upmarket retailer which is struggling to make its merger with what was once Owen & Robinson work.

Ronson is also an upmarket group which has experienced a long, hard stock market winter. Once a brewer, it was drawn into luxury products 1,045p. and immediately ran into trouble. Victor Kiam, the man who liked a certain product so much, etc, etc, is now running the show and helping bankroll the group. The shares first arrived in the mid-1980s at 60p. Stentor appears among the

there are bound to be casualthe shares topping 400p in ties. It is an Irish telecom share which, after flying high, came crashing down to earth been some encouraging as cash failed to match

Telespec, making advance telecom equipment, is another bucking an industry trend. It warned results would be disappointing. Once again it is a case of hopes being dashed. In 1995 the group seemed to be capable of carrying all before it with the shares hitting

And just outside the bottom 10 is a once proud name, Albert Fisher. The food group is showing signs of getting its act together but the market has yet to be convinced that the company, 73p five years ago, has put all its bad old ways behind it. The shares limp

Even the experts look shaky in the turbulence

THE PERFORMANCE of our fund managers' tips last year shows that turbulent market conditions can catch out even the experts. Three of our fund managers recorded healthy gains and comfortably outperformed the index. But the other four suffered as concerns grew about weakening consumer spending and the risk of recession.

Top of the pile was Colin McLean at Scottish Value Management, who tipped British Energy. Shares in the nuclear generator soared by 62 per cent as investors sought the relative safety of power generation. A bottle of champagne to our winner.

Unilever, tipped by Vanessa James at Legal & General, also did well with a 29 per cent gain as the market continued to warm to the re-shaping of the consumer foods group by Niall FitzGerald, chairman

First Choice Holidays, the selection of John Hatherly at 100p, the stock soared to 1666p by the summer, helped by good figures and the £134m purchases of Unijet and Hayes & Jarvis. Though fears over consumer spending dragged the stock off this peak, they showed a healthy gain by the year's end

At the other end of the scale, British Airways hit turbulence due to a slowdown in traffic and a dramatic fall in higher-margin business and club class fares as City banks and other frequent-flyers tightened purse strings. The much-mooted takeover of EMI failed to materialise, putting the shares in a spin, as the slowdown in CD sales continued.

Mike Grimble, Norwich

Tip: Airtours 384p. AGAINST a background of a slowing UK economy, consumers are preferring to spend on holidays rather than making commitments to big ticket goods. Airtours has the advantage of a strong management team running a company with a good brand and a strong balance sheet. The recent convertible bond placing offers the scope for further growth by acquisition following successful moves in Scandinavia and the US.

It is this broad geographical base which makes Airtours less reliant than its competitors on holiday demand in the UK. Given its firm control of costs, Airtours should be able to generate good earnings growth. Although the share price has been volatile over the last year, it stands at a discount of 20 per cent to the market and is well placed to make up ground in 1999.

John Hatherly, M&G Tip: Clydeport 196.5p A NEW management team is

recognise its strong forward earnings momentum, based mainly on rising coal imports through its efficient port facility on the West coast of Scotland. In addition, property development could yield substantial benefits. The balance sheet contains net cash and the business is strongly

ports sub-sector, implying considerable upside potential.

& General

Tip: MMT Computing 937.5p SINCE MMT floated in 1983 it has generated annualised profinvolved in computer systems M&G also did well. Tipped at consultancy and software facilities management. The company has a blue-chip client base in retail, health and the financial sectors, often obtaining preferred-supplier status with its key clients.

margins than companies reliant

grow by 45 per cent in the year ust gone, reducing to 22 per cent in 1999, yet this company is rated below the market. MMT has been wrongly compared with the IT staffing companies, ignoring its greater visibility of forward earnings. Also, it is a small company and has suffered with the derating in this area. We believe 1999 should be the year to correct this.

Tom Crombie, Scottish Equitable. Tip: Next 494p.

IT IS SURPRISING how many cheap stocks there are in the market just now. A private investor can find many shares in unfashionable sectors with high it is important to choose companies where profits are not going to disappear because of the economic slowdown or companied by a disappointing overseas competition.

My choice for 1999 is Next. It is a well-known, quality, highstreet retailer of fashionable clothes. It made a mistake in its merchandising last year transforming Clydeport, the and sales and profits have suf-Glasgow-based ports group. The fered as a result. Retailing is market has already begun to out of favour in the stock mar-

How they performed in 1998										
_	Tipped at	Price now	Gain/Loss							
British Energy	423p	687p	+62							
Unllever	521p	674p	+29							
First Choice	100p	122,5p	+22.5							
EMI	508p	402p	-21							
Wolseley	483p	380p	-21							
Ockham Holdings	104.5p	76.5p	-27							
British Airways	560p	405.25p	-28							
Average		,	+2							
FT All Share	. 2411	2673.9	+10.9							
FTSE 100	5135.5	5882.6	+14.5							

THE FUND **MANAGERS**

cash-generative. The shares do not deserve to stand on a discount of 20-30 per cent to their counterparts in the

Vanessa James, Legal

Currently, MMT is benefiting from Year 2000 millennium bug work and from preparations for the euro, but we are convinced that its established client base will provide sufficient projects to fuel demand post this bubble. The bulk of contracts are undertaken on a time and materials basis, reducing contractual risk, and are staffed by MMT personnel, so producing higher

on self-employed contractors. Earnings are expected to

yields and low P/Es. Of course,

slowdown in spending and high-profile problems at M&S. I think Next is cheap on a 5.5

per cent yield and 11 times price/earnings multiple. The yield is almost 1 per cent higher than you get on long gilts. Expectations are low and the outlook could improve if interest rates fall below 5 per cent next year. The stock market will anticipate a recovery in consumer spending when monetary policy is eased further. The retail sector could do well and Next could do even better if it sorts out its merchandising problems.

Colin McLean, Scottish Value Management. Tip: Shanks & McEwan

MY SHARE TIP for 1999 is a company that performed well in 1998, despite a weak backits growth of 27 per cent. It is ground for medium-sized companies. The waste management business Shanks & McEwan Group has made steady progress over the past three years, yet still remains substantially undervalued.

It operates a range of waste collection and landfill activities. With a market capitalisation of £400m, it is now a substantial business, and has recently moved into Europe. Utilities aiming to diversity have been buying into waste management, and recent takeover prices would value Shanks & McEwan substantially higher than its current share price.

Graham Wood, Standard Life Investments.

Tip: Imperial Tobacco 644p. THIS YEAR will be characterised by fears over economic growth and possible price deflation as markets wait for interest rate cuts to take effect.

Imperial Tobacco is substantially cheaper than the market average, both in yield and in P/E terms. Its earnings are forecast to show double digit growth and this forecast should be resilient against a background where economic and profits growth forecasts are generally being cut. This makes it an attractive stock for 1999.

Robert Talbut, Royal & SunAlliance.

Tip: BAA. THE EXTREMELY challenging background against which we expect companies to be operating predicates our selection for 1999. We expect that inflation will stay very low and be ac-

growth out-turn. BAA is rightly perceived as exhibiting a relatively defensive earnings stream, relating largely, as it does, to aircraft movements. While the global macroeconomic background next year is unlikely to be helpful, we still believe in the longerterm dynamics of growth in air travel. Even though BAA is still to some extent a regulated business this is becoming

less significant in group terms. The particular positive surprise that may emerge in the new year would be the delay in abolition of EU duty-free. While this would provide an added kicker to medium term valuations we remain comfortable that the company can build upon its recent relative gains, in what promises to be a difficult investment environment.

ELLEN HARRISON

442.5p

30p

282.5p

4450

2411

5135.5

Accepted 50p cash bld from Irish rival Stoneworth in May

602.5p

2617p

832.5p

222p

224

2673.9

5882.6

50p

THE INDEPENDENT'S share tips for 1998 bear the scars that afflicted the whole market. Though the FTSE 100 eventually rallied after its summertime blues to show a 14.5 per cent gain, the recovery was based on the rampant performance of one or two star sectors which skewed the whole index. Most of our tips were from

Filtronic

Nycomed Amersham

Newcastle United

Groupe Chez Gerard

Peptide Therapeutics

Adjusted for six-for-one share split

Fitzwilton"

Signet ::

werage.

TSE 100

outside the blue chips, where stocks remained unloved. There were some notable exceptions, however. WS Atkins, the engineering and consulting group, finished the year strongly after calling off merger talks with P&O's Bovis Homes subsidiary. Chorion, the former Trocadero group, also tootled along merrily after picking up the rights to the Noddy and Big Ears books, And Eurotunnel, that perennial under-achiever, turned in a solid performance on the back of improving passenger figures and its first "profit" following a debt restructuring.

At the bottom of the league, Tamaris, the nursing home com-Leisure, the nightchubs operator, spring and the downturn in consumer spending hit it hard.

pany, looked sickly. Northern called off takeover talks in the But the logic of some of the

tips remains intact. Readers

who bought BSkyB should

hang on as the stock still looks

OUR STAFF TIPS

tipped on the basis that if things continued to slide it would fall to a takeover. It did, but the merger with Siebe only emerged after the stock had fallen further than expected.

This year is likely to be difficult. Growth stocks will be few and far between as fear persists about weak consumer spending, price deflation and weak economic growth. For that reason the best course of action when considering FTSE 100 stocks, is to look for recovery potential.

For that reason we like the look of Bass (881.5p). Shares in Britain's biggest brewer are well below their peak of 1175p in the spring. It has been hit by fears over consumer spending but its purchase of Intercontinental Hotels offers more balance and its portfolio of drink and pub brands such as All Bar One, is among the strongest.

In retailing, the supermarkets look undervalued and Asda (161.5p) is trading at a discount to the sector. The shares are around 30 per cent lower than their 1998 peak.

Barclays Bank (1296p) may be worth a punt after its recent woes. Despite Martin Taylor's under-valued. And BTR was

surprise exit from the chief ex-ecutive's hot seat a couple of months ago, the basic highstreet banking business remains in good shape. The shares have rebounded from their 838p level in October but are still well down on their 1946p peak and trading at a con-

Class 6b at King Alfred's School in London picked a portfolio of shares and gave some intriguing reasons for their choices

%Gain/Loss

. + +36

-21

+10.9

Picking share winners is child's play

A YEAR AGO we asked Ellen

Harrison, the five-and-a-half

year old daughter of our Deputy

Business and City Editor, to

choose 10 stocks at random

from our share price pages.

This "alternative" method of

stock selection resulted in one

or two heady gains, but a couple

of disappointments dragged

the portfolio down to a 6 per

Best performer was Fil-

tronic, which makes compo-

nents for mobile phone base

stations. The strength of the

telecoms sector pushed the

shares 36 per cent higher.

cent fall on average.

siderable discount to rivals. Outside Footsie, another recovery stock is Churchill China (87.5p), the specialist manufacturer of tableware. The strength of sterling has depressed export prices, and the Asian crisis wiped out sales in Korea and the Pacific Rim, while frustrated exports have depressed prices on the home market. But the company is ungeared and its technical problems have been

* After one-for-forty share consolidation

virtually solved.

buck the gloomy economic outlook and grow by around 8-10 per cent for the next few years. Hanson (477.5p) is a solid rock in the crumbling building materials sector. Unlike its unfancied peers, the rump of Lord Hanson's empire is less vulnerable to the UK economic slump. After an aggressive

spending spree on boit-on buys, over half of Hanson's profits come from the US, which is on

Carpetright, hit by weakening

consumer spending, and Pep-

tide Therapeutics, the biotech

company which fell from favour

a slightly more sophisticated ap-

proach than sticking a pin in the

paper. The class of 6b (10 and 11

year olds) at King Alfred's

School in London - which in-

cludes the son of The Indepen-

dent's Business and City Editor

- was asked to select a portfo-

lio of 10 shares, giving reasons

like a good business to be in.

Ocean Group, liked the name.

(837.5p) looks like a safe bet. The

group, formed by merger of

Scholl the maker of the famous

medical sandals, and Seton,

the over-the-counter drug spe-

healthcare players in the UK

and continental Europe. Those

two markets are expected to

cialist, is one of the leading

Problem stocks included British Polythene Industries, ing on household goods.

Capital Radio, radio seems

in each case. Here they are.

This year we have opted for

_									
How they performed in 1998									
ice now	%Gain/Loss								
·497.5p	+37								
21.5p	+23								
72.5p	. +20								
547.5p	+3								
322.5p	-1								
456.5p									
319p	-27 -27								
124p	-34								
106.5p	-4B								
37.5p	-62 -9								
2673.9	+10.9								
5882.6	+14.5								
	2673.9 5882.6 year								

No cure for summertime blues Seton Scholl Healthcare the verge of a boom thanks to a \$216bn government road-

British Steel, likewise and be-

cause it makes steel. Havelock

Europa, no reason given. Unit-

ed Biscuits, because people

like to eat biscuits. Vodafone be-

cause the class mistook the p/e

for the yield, which at 60 is in-

deed impressively high, but also

because the mobile phone boom

is expected to gather pace. Soco

International, a play on the oil

price, which is expected to re-

cover Independent Newspa-

pers, because it publishes The

Independent. Stoves Group,

no reason given but presumably

building programme. Support services could do well this year as contracting-out is more popular in downturns. Skills Group (181.5p), is shifting from low-margin distribution to more lucrative computer services, but has yet to reap the benefits in share price terms. The group has net cash of £33m to fund bolt-on acquisitions and with a forward multiple of just

12, a rerating looks overdue. DCC (520p), the Irish industrial holding company, has an odd mix of businesses in healthcare, food, energy and computer distribution. But it has proved a successful combination and its "localisation" business, which adapts computer software for European and Asian markets, is booming. Analysts are impressed with the company's progressive management, and good acquisition record.

For a play on the explosive growth potential of the Internet. investors with strong stomachs should have a look at Zergo. Two weeks ago the firm became the world's second-largest supplier of security software, which allows people to trade safely on the Internet, when it merged with its Irish rival, Baltimore, in a 235m deal. Not for widows and orphans, but worth a punt.

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حيكذا من الاعل

What the markets will do in 1999

THE MOST surprising thing about stock markets last year was their resilience. Taking as a benchmark the performance of Wall Street. which was mirrored in subdued form by London, equities defied the bearish predictions that littered the pages of the financial press at the turn of the year, or at least, many of the market leaders did.

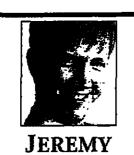
2013年 1013年 1014年 1014年

Transport of the second of the

Nien

Personally, I advised readers to be wary of Wall Street and not to expect miracles from London. I cannot claim this was entirely sound advice, though my judgement on Japan - avoid like the plague proved as percipient as ever. Despite the warnings of economic slowdown from the Far East, the Dow Jones Industrial Average on 17 July of 9380.2, up a staggering 18 per cent on its level at the start of the year.

last desperate gasp of the bull market. There was a crash, sure enough, but it bottomed out at a rescued markets in the US was the higher level, and much sooner, extraordinary optimism and nerve than most of us would have pre- of small private investors. Over



WARNER

dicted. The Dow is now back at close to its peak. If this recovery is sustained - and that's still a big "if" - then what happened in the late summer/early autumn will go down raced away, hitting an all-time peak in history as the shortest bear market ever.

We are becoming, I guess, quite used to this phenomenon. The mar-Nor did this turn out to be the ket crashed, then promptly uncrashed, at about the same time in 1997 too. On both occasions what

pays to buy on the dips. The contrary strategy, which is played out in a sustained bear market, of selling into the rallies, just failed to materialise.

Even so, with valuations at their present heady levels, the dangers of the buy-on-the-dips approach are increasingly apparent. The picture is very mixed, of course, with the apparently insane valuations put on Internet and hi-tech stocks quite out of kilter with the more more and save less as well. Obvireasonable ratings afforded to companies in traditional industries.

But the overall impression is still a very challenging one. Wall Street has staged its recovery despite growing signs not only of a slowing economy but, perhaps more importantly, of much more pedestrian corporate earnings growth.

These valuations may have looked reasonable while analysts were continuing to predict doubledigit earnings growth into the medium-term future, but hardly anyone is doing that any longer. Here in Britain, corporate earnings

the years, they have learned that it are unlikely to rise at all this year ever shocks the world economy has central bankers protest that this is but the next largest 250 companies, - they may even fall.

Perhaps as worrying for US valuations, the savings ratio - that is threat comes from Brazil and the the amount people save out of income - has fallen close to zero. There is growing evidence that the wealth effect of the bull market has helped sustain the US's consumer and economic boom. Since people expect their savings to grow with the stock market, they have begun to believe they can spend

ously, this cannot go on for ever. In the end, however, shares, like all assets, are worth what people are prepared to pay for them. If investors will happily fork out much higher prices than they used to, so be it. Any setback in prices is regarded as a buying opportunity. The sixty four thousand dollar question is for how much longer this can continue.

My own guess is that it will be for a little bit longer yet. If stock markets can survive what was thrown at them last year without plunging into the abyss, then they certainly ought to be able to weather what-

in store for them this time round too. Of these, the most immediate rest of Latin America. A meltdown there might have a far more damaging direct effect on the US econ-

region is also a more important trading partner. However, I suspect that the psychological impact on markets the contagion effect - will be less severe, if only because markets are now used to these shocks and have to some extent already discounted

omy than the Far East, since the

customed to the idea that if things get really rocky, central bankers will ride to the rescue. Interest rates have been cut sharply across the Western world since the autumn financial crisis hit. And when the excesses of Long-Term Capital Management threatened general systemic damage, the US Federal Reserve organised a rescue. Investors can hardly be

them. They have also become ac-

not the intention.

There are pienty of other reasons for thinking we are not yet in a sustained bear phase. The amount of merger activity remains high, both in the US and Europe, and share buybacks show no sign of a let-up, further swelling the pool of cash looking for a good investment home. With emerging markets and Japan now no-go areas for Western investors, where else but their own stock markets can they look?

All these factors are underpinned by the continued strength of Western bond markets. Falling inflation, shading into price deflation, means that the immediate outlook is for ever-cheaper money. This in turn makes equities look cheap in relative terms, always assuming, of course, that the traditional relationship between bond and equity yields is broadly maintained.

Furthermore, it is a mistake to dge equities as a whole by what is going on among the market blamed for thinking that there is an ders. The FTSE 100 index fineffective safety net, however much ished the year up nearly 15 per cent,

as represented by the FTSE mid cap index, on average barely rose at all As for the small cap and fledgling indices, they closed a fair bit lower And even within the FTSE

100, the picture was very mixed. In short, the makings of the sort of radical shift in investor psychology that might cause western equity markets to go into sharp decline just don't seem to be there right now. That's not to say I think Wall Street and London rip-roaring buys. I'd be amazed if these markets record double digit growth this year. With the euro launch providing a following wind, I suspect the best value will be had on the Continent, and particularly from Frankfurt and Paris.

My advice on Japan is the same as it has been for some years now. Don't be beguiled by those who insist that after a 10-year bear market, Tokyo is on the verge of revival. Valuations in Japan are still far higher than the US and Europe, while economically, the country is in much worse shape. Need I say more?

£900m bill for bad weather

THE STORMS which battered Scotland, Northern England and Ireland over Christmas made 1998 the worst year for bad weather claims since 1990, when insurance claims topped £2bn.

The total bill for the year just ended is likely to be between £800m and £900m, according to the Association of British Insurers. This compares with claims ranging from £300m to £500m in an average year.

The latest storms will give rise to a large number of individual claims for structural damage, insurers say. But most individual claims will be less than £500 and the total bill for the industry could well be less than £20m, compared with the widespread damage caused by the January 1998 storms, which cost over £200m, and again by the floods last Easter and in October, both of which presented insurance companies with bills in excess of £100m.

Mortgage lenders normally insist that all properties are

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

surveyed and adequately insured, and insurance values are increased each year to take account of the impact of inflation on rebuilding costs. The properties that are most at risk of being under-insured are those where the mortgage has been paid off or was taken out years ago, before property values began to escalate.

Many homes are still underinsured for contents, however, mainly because owners forget to adjust their cover when they buy new items for their homes, and one in four homes still have no contents cover at all.

Homeowners can obtain a free fact sheet on how to calculate rebuilding costs according to the age, size, location and type of property, and a guide to valuing the typical contents of individual rooms, by writing to the ABI at 51 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7HQ enclosing an sae.

Takeover reaps £27m tax boost

RESIDENTIAL property com-completed by the end of Janu-ary, when the present board of day said that it had agreed to Anagen, who will retain 2.8 per be taken over by Anagen, a shell company, in a deal which will reap tax advantages of present management. over £27m, writes Simon Duke.

Anagen, a now-defunct biotechnology company, has applied for a listing on the London Stock Exchange, and will offer 512 million new shares to Gander stockholders on a one-for-one basis. The offer will lead to a capital gains loss of £27m for the new entity, to be named Gander Properties, which will then be used to write off future taxable gains on property sales.

The deal is expected to be property company.

T. CS

cent of the new shares, will step down in favour of Gander's

Gander, whose speciality is developing residential properties in Kensington and Chelsea, London, which it either sells or rents out, has a market capitalisation of around £35m at Wednesday's closing price of 6.75p, just over half of the net value of its property portfolio.

In October, Gander said that it expected to report losses in the years to January 1999 and 2000, as a result of the September acquisition of Barras-ford Holdings, a loss-making

IN BRIEF

Oil prices finish the year showing a 40% slide

OIL PRICES limped sideways yesterday to finish the year 40 per cent lower than they started as the market stoops under a global supply glut. Brent, the world benchmark, was worth just \$10.53 a barrel at the close, unchanged on the day and over \$6 lower than in early January after one of the steepest price slides on record. An average of \$13.34 a barrel in 1998 is the lowest annual level since 1976.

Littlechild backs BNFL

PROFESSOR STEPHEN LITTLECHILD, the director-general of the electricity watchdog Offer, has backed proposals to allow BNFL access to the Scotland-England interconnector, turning down ScottishPower's request to reserve the whole of the connector's capacity. However, he did not make a decision on National Power's request for access, citing lack of information.

Zeneca settlement investigated

THE US Justice Department is reportedly studying whether a legal settlement in which Zeneca gave Barr Laboratories US distribution rights for a generic version of its tamoxifen breast cancer drug is keeping prices high. Zeneca, which has the US patent on tamoxifen until 2002, sued Barr in 1993 after the firm applied to sell generic tamoxifen, claiming Zeneca's patent was not valid. Investigators are said to be looking at whether the settlement hurt competition by shutting out other firms.

PowerGen takes £50bn India stake

POWERGEN has paid £3.57bn rupees (£50bn) for a 49 per cent stake in the Rosa power project in Uttar Pradesh in India, according to PowerGen India's general manager. The Rosa project is being set up at a cost of 24.3bn rupees.

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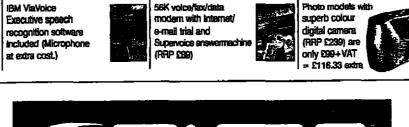
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... and here are the headlines for 1999

FOOTBALL

BY GLENN MOORE

HAVING BEEN the final champions of the 19th century, and the first of this, Aston Villa hope to achieve a remarkable treble in May with the closing title of the millennium. Resilient with a touch of flair and overwhelmingly English, the modern Villa would be worthy winners, but they face far more exotic competition than their illustrious pre-

Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea (known in 1900 as Newton Heath, Woolwich Arsenal or. in Cheisea's case, yet to be formed) are the main challengers, with Chelsea, in particular, having just a smattering of Englishmen. But they have already disproved the old xenophobic clichés about foreign players fading in winter and caus-

ing disruption in the dressing-room and, with Manchester United distracted by Europe - probably in vain again - and Arsenal short of goals, this could be Chelsea's year

Much may depend on how quickly, and how well, Gustavo Poyet, a prospective footballer of the year, recovers from injury but Chelsea have already shown they have strength in depth. Lazio, however may deny them a European Cup-Winners' Cup double.

The usual contenders will be in the frame for the FA Cup. with Liverpool and Tottenham joining the aforementioned quartet. Middlesbrough, West Ham and Leeds are prospective dark horses. Spurs, blending the cup-fighting traditions of both club and manager, may emerge the winners.

In the Worthington Cup, it would e nice to see Joe Kinnear finally earn reward for his efforts at Wimoledon. Spurs bar the way in the semi-final, Sunderland or Leicester in the final.

Sunderland would be amply compensated with the First Division championship, Birmingham should go up with them while an East Anglian derby would make a fitting

play-off final. likely to be underlined by the rapid return of Nottingham Forest and Charlton Athletic, with Coventry or Southampton going down with them. North of the border, Rangers should hold off Kilmarnock's brave

RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWETT

ACCORDING TO proponents of the more apocalyptic religious faiths, we will all be dead by the end of 1999. On the basis that they may conceivably have to wait a very long time - an eternity, indeed - for another shot at the golden pot, it would be as well for England to win the World Cup at the next available opportunity, which just happens to present tself this coming autumn. Can they succeed? Yes, they can. Will they succeed? Er, probably not.

The suspicion must be that Clive Woodward's side will require too many big performances - more than one, that is - in too tight a timespan to go the whole hog. New Zealand and those notable non-pushovers rom Italy are already confirmed as pool opponents and Tonga also enter the English equation if, as expected, they win the qualifying repechage. It is, without question, the most competitive of the groups and the damage it causes will probably leave ither South Africa or Australia aughing all the way to the title.

On the face of it, England ought o find the final Five Nations' Championship much more to their liking, if only because the French nust travel to Twickenham. However, there is a very real prospect of 1 seriously combative tournament his time around. Wales, Scotland and Ireland all had their moments against the Springboks recently and they are still too dependant on the if only" theory of rugby to lend egitimacy to talk of a celtic renaissance, they are not beyond upsetting 4 few applecarts. The Irish welcome both England and France to Lansdowne Road, so hold on to

Leicester will never have a beter chance of winning the Premierhip; neither Northampton nor vewcastle possess sufficient allound pace to sustain a challenge nto April and May and although the hree big London powers - Wasps, Saracens and Harlequins – are comortably quick enough, the Cup is a nore realistic target for each.



CRICKET

BY DEREK PRINGLE

THE 1999 season will be the last before a two-divisional Championship attempts to take English cricket into the new millennium. The World Cup, cricket's prestigious four-yearly competition will also be held, albeit in May, when English pitches are at their most xenophobic.

After the World Cup, New Zealand tour here, while, later in the year, England travel to South Africa for a five Test series. Predicting what might happen,

particularly where England are concerned, is always a hazardous business, but here goes. Alec Stewart sees the millennium

out as England captain. Michael Atherton is dropped from the team. then comes back to open the batting against Allan Donald for the Johannesburg Test. Selectors cite "horses for courses" as the reason for his comeback.

England's run in the World Cup is ended by South Africa, who lose to Australia in the final Kenya manage to beat two Test-playing countries in the opening rounds.

Lord MacLaurin opens the first supermarket on a ground formerly used for first-class cricket. Meanwhile, Bryan Young, New Zealand's opening batsman, ensures the first over of the summer's Test series is

Leicestershire win their third Championship in four years. In the headlong rush to finish in the top division, 12 counties are docked 25 points each for sub-standard pitches. Harry Brind, the England and Wales Cricket Board's pitch inspector, learns to pilot his own helicopter, such is his workload.

In a bid to make lady members feel at home, the MCC brings in a a contest. bulk consignment of pink toilet paper. Unfortunately, no loos have been built to accommodate it, and the surplus is used by groundstaff to mop up the ground after the hover-cover on a rape conviction, but, unless runs amok down St John's Wood High Street.

BOXING

BY KEN JONES

IF MIKE TYSON'S return to the ring against Franz Botha in Las Vegas on the 16th of this month dominates the boxing calendar, it cannot divert all attention from a contest between Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis to unify the heavyweight championship.

Scheduled for 13 March, appropriately at boxing's most famous arena, Madison Square Garden in New York, it will be the sport's biggest event there since March 1971, when Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali squared up for the undisputed heavyweight title.

Various imponderables, however, make it unlikely that either man will have an edge in the betting when they are summoned to their

Holyfield, who is putting up the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation belts against that of the World Boxing Council held by Lewis, must run an increasing risk with the erosion of

Lewis is the heavier puncher but none the less, doubts exist about his ability to overcome Holyfield's superior technique and handle the rough in fighting that caused Tyson to lose his head and his boxing li-

Unification of the heavyweight championship, however temporarily, will restore some sense to a sport beset by a ludicrous proliferation of international bodies and often phoney titles.

Tyson's reappearance after a the Nevada State Commission for biting a chunk out of Holyfield's right ear is more of an event than

Botha is a cut above the hapless Peter McNeeley, who was served up to the former champion after his parole following three years in prison Tyson is completely shot, it ought to be a difficult task for him

MOTOR RACING

BY DERICK ALLSOP

FORMULA ONE fans were parted from their sport demanding more of the same next season and the chances are they will be obliged.

The jostling for position in the pack could be just as intriguing and Jordan, having muscled past Benetton, are intent on challenging Williams for third place in the constructors' standings. It seems likely, however, that McLaren, Mercedes and Ferrari will again corner the main event. The Italians are even more anxious to acclaim their first champion since 1979 after Michael Schumacher's latest near miss.

David Coulthard is no less determined to stake a claim this time, following the success of his McLaren team-mate, Mika Hakkinen. The Scot must reckon a fulfilled Hakkinen will have difficulty motivating himself to the same extent. Coulthard may also feel he is entitled to a little pay-back in recogni-

tion of his selfless support in 1998. That would leave him with the small matter of fending off Schumacher, and if the Ferrari is improved to near enough the standard of the McLaren, then Coulthard will be confronting a monumental task.

eminent driver in grand prix racing. For the past two seasons he has been the saviour of Formula One, pushing superior cars to the wire. His third title is overdue.

BY JOHN ROBERTS

PROVIDED TIM HENMAN and Greg Rusedski are fit, healthy and in good form, Britain ought to give the United States a keen contest in the first round of the Davis Cup World Group at Birmingham's National Indoor Arena at Easter.

David Lloyd. Britain's captain, goes into the New Year knowing he can rely on the support of his two leading players, while his American counterpart, Tom Gullikson, has to plan without Pete Sampras, the world No 1, if not Andre Agassi, the world No 6.

However, there is no depth to Lloyd's squad, whereas Gullikson can call on the experience of Todd Martin and the vitality of Jan-Michael Gambill even before delving for other options, such as Vince Spadea, Justin Gimelstob and dare we say it - Jeff Tarango.

If Britain win, the second round will bring a journey to Australia or Zimbabwe, on 16-18 July. Individually, Henman and Ru-

sedski are determined to challenge Sampras for the No 1 position and to win a Grand Slam singles title. Sampras, with 11 Grand Slam singles titles to his name, seeks two more Schumacher remains the pre- to overtake the record held by Australia's Roy Emerson.

Steffi Graf, 30 next June, continues her latest comeback from injury. Prediction: Rusedski to win the Wimbledon men's singles title.

By ANDY FARRELL

TO SAN DIEGO in February for the inaugural World Matchplay Championship, where Nick Faldo, as the 64th player on the rankings, will scrape into the tournament and the beat world No 1, Tiger Woods, in the opening round. But Lee Westwood will continue his winning spree by taking his biggest title to date.

Augusta, April, and that rite of spring that is the US Masters. Woods will reclaim what is rightfully his with another overpowering performance on Bobby Jones' masterpiece. In an emotional finale. Seve Ballesteros wins for the first time in four years at the PGA Championship, on his beloved West Course at Wentworth. More turning back the

> fabled Pinehurst No 2 course, where Faldo wins his seventh major after an 18-hole play-off with David Duval A month later, Ernie Els battles Jose-Maria Olazabal for the 128th Open Championship at Carnoustie, before the South African takes the title for the first time and his third major. In Chicago in August. the long wait finally ends for

clock at the US

Open in June at the

Colin Montgomerie at the US Open-style Medinah. America continue to mess up the foursomes and fourballs at Brookline in September, but overwhelm Europe in the singles to win the Ryder Cup for the first time since 1993. Westwood wins the Order of Merit, ending Monty's six-year reign. and moves to No 2 in the world behind Woods.

Player of the year: Sergio Garcia. The 18-year-old finishes fifth as an amateur at the Masters. turns pro and wins the Turespaña Masters and the Deutsche Bank Open, qualifies for the Ryder Cup and partners Olazabal to three points out of four, before halving with Woods in the singles.

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

HAVING CLEANED up at the European Championships and the Commonwealth Games, Britain's athletes face the more stringent test of a global event this season, in the form of the International Amateur Athletics Federation World Championships in Seville.

Marion Jones, the US sprinter who won all 21 of her races last season. is likely to contest four world titles, the 100m, 200m, the sprint relay and the long jump.

Jones, who won a third share of the \$1m (£609,750) on offer to those athletes completing the IAAF Golden League sequence unbeaten, could make the breakthrough. It is long claim the whole amount for herself enough since the club won major in the designated 200m event.

The two outstanding world male athletes. Haile Gebrselassie of Ethiopia and Hicham El Guerrouj of Morocco, have not had their best events included in next season's schedule, and could give Jones a clear run as they concentrate on maintaining their grip on the middle distances. Daniel Komen of Kenya coached and their players will have is the man capable of pushing Gebrselassie at 5,000m and 10,000m.

learnt a great deal from their near The World Championships offer On top of a couple of key signings Britain's European and Commonwealth heptathlon gold medallist, to strengthen their squad in Lee Denise Lewis, the chance to un-Jackson and Karl Pratt, Leeds have the best under-19s in the game. derline her position as No 1, while Jonathan Edwards and Ashia Throw in a bigger contribution from Barrie McDermott and the Hansen could make it a British douresources available to Graham Murble in the triple jump.

How close will Iwan Thomas, the Commonwealth, European and World Cup 400m champion, get to the Olympic and world title-holder, Michael Johnson? Or will Mark Richardson realise his full potential over one lap? The London Marathon. on 18 April, also promises performances to remember as the Irish title-holder, Catherina McKiernan. takes on the Olympic 10,000m champion, Fernanda Ribeiro of Portugal, who is due to run her first marathon.

RACING

15-month suspension imposed by YOU DO not need to be Nos- BY GREG WOOD tradamus to appreciate that Commander Collins is unlikely to see out the trip in the Derby in June, even though he is currently no better than 8-1 to win the premier Classic. His dam won the Breeders' Cup Sprint, and his close relative Colonel Collins clearly did not stay

of 1994

when third to Erhaab in the Derby

way this year, particularly if there is some cut in the ground at Newmarket on 2,000 Guineas day. Similar conditions proved ideal in the Racing Post Trophy in October. and all the best judges reckoned he would improve significantly from two to three.

Nor will there be any need to

news of his well-being, since, unlike the Godolphin string, he is prepared in Britain for owners who like a bet. The ante-post market will reflect his health as reliably

RUGBY LEAGUE

IT HAS been said it before and might

have to be said again, but this really

should be the season when Leeds

honours to make Manchester City's

brief depression, but Leeds now

wait for a winning team look like a

They had the measure of Wigan

in the regular season last time and

only lost out to their great rivals'

superior know-how in the play-offs.

They were oustandingly well

ray start to look formidable.

tilt sufficiently this time.

without an almighty fight.

as a blood test.

Against that, Wigan, still Leeds'

logical stumbling block, look a little

thin in some positions. Considering

how little there was between the two

sides last season, the balance could

So there you have it: Leeds to win

Super League, pursued by Wigan, St.

Helens and Bradford. Gateshead to

be respectable, but Wakefield to

flounder; and do not expect Sheffield

Eagles to give up the Challenge Cup

BY DAVE HADFTELD

look ready.

miss in 1998.

Although he ran in Robert Sangster's blue-and-green silks last season, Commander Collins is now part-owned by John Magnier, which probably kept him from the Yet a Classic could still come his consult runes or tea leaves for clutches of Sheikh Mohammed's

Godolphin operation. Another partowner is Tony Collins, who was "warned off" the turf for several years for his part in the notorious Gay Future betting coup.

Collins, apparently, did not make a penny from the coup, which involved all manner of highly imaginative plotting. The horse which bears his name, on the other hand, should enjoy a very profitable season indeed.

Ryan set to join Bristol's revival

DEAN RYAN, the former England No 8 who has fought more battles on the rugby field than he ever managed as a career soldier, yesterday emerged as the clear favourite to replace his old rival David Egerton as Bristol's forwards coach. If the 32year-old Newcastle captain completes his expected move next week. the West Countrymen will be able to boast the most potent backroom team in the English game.

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Bob Dwyer, the World Cup-winning Australian coach, and Jack Rowell, the former England coach who masterminded a decade of unparalleled success at neighbouring Bath, are already in place at the Memorial Ground, as is Darryl Jones, the backs specialist from Neath. Dwyer, very much the driving force behind Bristol's surge to the top of Allied Dunbar Premiership Two, sees Ryan as the last piece in his training ground jigsaw.

"As far as I know, Newcastle have not yet agreed to release Dean; negotiations are continuing and I hope to make an announcement next week," Dwyer said yesterday. "Because we are a new team, we do not have an excess of leaders. By virtue of his stature as a player and as a leader. Ryan would be an important addition." There was not so much as a murmur from Newcastle. However, Kingston Park officials were privately resigned to Ryan's departure.

Ryan joined Newcastle from Wasps a little over three years ago, teaming up with two old club-mates, Rob Andrew and Steve Bates, to reinvent the Falcons as a state-ofthe-art professional outfit. The project was a phenomenal triumph -Newcastle won promotion to the top flight in 1997 before winning the Allied Dunbar title at their first attempt last May – and while Andrew, as director of rugby, was undeniably the architect, his captain was the master mason: An unexpected by-product of his autumnal success came special atmosphere of a big game last March, when he was recalled to the England side for the Calcutta Cup match in Scotland, his first in- ted to the Saturday kick-off now and New York, in addition to organising

ternational appearance in six years. once we pack the crowd in and get a \(\) the World Boxing Council champion's Last month, though, Ryan enfew drums banging, we'll give Stade | training camp in the Pocono Hills,

BY CHRIS HEWETT

neck and was advised by specialists that he would miss the remainder of the season. Newcastle's apparent reluctance to extend his playing contract - they want him to concentrate on coaching - is almost certainly a major factor behind his decision to talk to Bristol, who will encourage him to continue his active career.

If the Memorial Grounders finally get their man, it will be another feather in the cap of Malcolm Pearce, the millionaire businessman and self-confessed rugby nut who bought the club out of receivership during the summer. Pearce's money has allowed Dwyer to make a fistful of influential acquisitions.

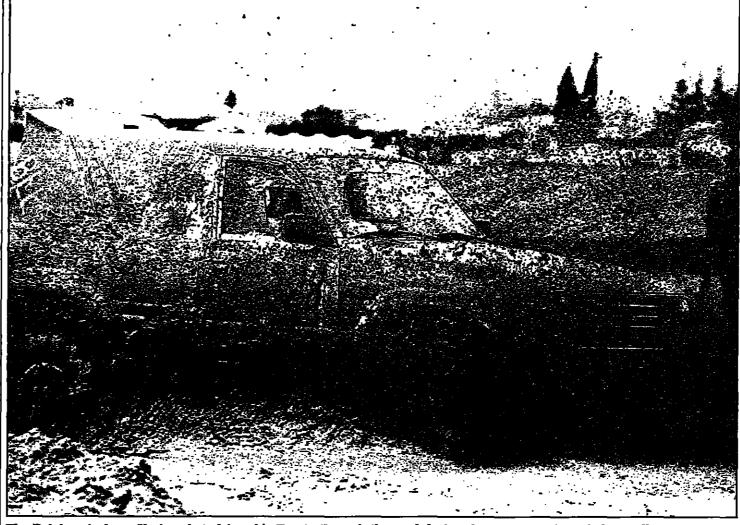
Ulster intend to expand the capacity of their Ravenhill stadium to 20,000 for the European Cup semifinal with Stade Français tomorrow

"The organisers of the tourna-ment were keen to maximise the attendance and by erecting temporary stands and using all the available space, we've managed to comply with their wishes," Michael Reid, the Ulster chief executive, said. "We've already shifted more than 14,000 tickets and we're pretty certain of pulling in a full house for the game."

The Irishmen originally wanted to play the game under lights next Friday night, but the French favourites were having none of it; an understandable reaction in the light of the startling indignities suffered by Toulouse in recent weeks. Ulster beat the 1996 champions twice in quick succession, once in a pool match and then in an explosive quarter-final.

"I think we'd have preferred to stick with the tried and trusted Friday routine," Reid admitted. "We've attracted some fantastic support throughout the tournament and the under lights has definitely been a contributory factor. Still, we're committered hospital for an operation on his Français something to think about." | Pennsylvania.

Mud flies on the drive to dominate Dakar Rally



The Belgian, Andreas Vanierschot, drives his Toyota through the mud during the prologue of the Dakar Rally at the Amilla airbase near Granada, Spain, yesterday. The 19-day rally begins in earnest from the Moroccan capital, Rabat, today

the road

THE LENNOX Lewis-Evander Holyfield roadshow looks likely to arrive in Europe during mid-January as yet another hectic leg of Frank Maloney's schedule.

Lewis and Holyfield are set to hard-sell their heavyweight title unification showdown, scheduled for 13 March, with press conferences in London, Paris and Germany this month, and will be accompanied by the promoter, Don King. This follows a whistle-stop tour of America, during which the mega-bout was officially announced last month.

Maloney, Lewis's manager, has recently won the European Boxing Union's "title" as Promoter of the Year. And, true to form, he still has several other shows to promote prior to the Lewis-Holyfield fight in

Lewis on Race dispute mars Test

STEVE TSHWETE, South Africa's Sports minister, has criticised his country's cricket selectors for snubbing black players in the squad for the fourth Test against the West Indies, which starts in Cape Town to-

Tshwete is annoyed that, with South Africa 3-0 up in a five Test series, no attempt has been made to experiment with emerging talent to balance a white-dominated side. "This was a good opportunity to let a talented youngster have a chance to play," he said.

Tshwete claimed the repeated exclusion of black players from the national side was denying them the chance to improve skills and gain experience. Ali Bacher, the managing director of the United Cricket Board (UCB), said he was disappointed by Tshwete's comments. He was planning to challenge the minister when the pair attended a black cricket tournament in the Eastern Cape town of Fort Beaufort yesterday.

"The politicians must have conhim and his fellow cricket adminismen Herschelle Gibbs and Paul George said.

SPORTS LETTERS

Post letters to Sports Desk at 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. Faxes to 0171 293 2894 or e-mail to sport@independent.co.uk

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

My wife and I had a grand day

By KIERAN DALEY

trators, recent criticism has come as a shock. Previously, cricket was hailed as a model sport because of its commitment to black development. Tshwete himself chaired the talks between rival black and white cricket bodies which led to the for-

mation of the UCB in 1991. A picture of Tshwete shedding tears of joy as he hugged the batsman Peter Kirsten after South Africa had beaten the champions, Australia, in their first World Cup match in Sydney in 1992 epitomised cricket's status as a unifying force in the new South Africa. Ironically, at the time it was an all-white team with no player of colour anywhere near contention for a place in the side.

In the past year, though, four fidence in us," Bacher said. For et for South Africa. The mixed-race

Adams have also played in Tests and have both been selected for tomorrow's Test. Roger Telemachus, another coloured player, has played in one-day internationals.

National age group teams have become racially mixed, with an average of about 40 per-cent black players. Thami Tsolekile, a black African from Cape Town, will captain the South African Under-19 team on a tour of Pakistan this month.

Early last year the UCB drew up guidelines for the national selectors. who were told they should include players of colour in national teams. A monitoring committee was set up with the power to request the selectors to think again, or, when a series was already decided, to direct them to pick players of colour.

The monitoring committee approved the team for tomorrow's coloured or black cricketers have or his fellow African National Conrepresented the country, including gress politician. Mluleki George, the fast bowler Makhaya Ntini, the the chairman of the National Sports first black African to play Test crick- Council. "The time is drawing near when we will have to take action,"

Florimo arrives to boost Wigan

RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

GREG FLORIMO has arrived in Britain to add his vast experience to Wigan's cause, but he may not be the final piece in John Monie's jigsaw for the 1999 season.

Florimo, the 31-year-old North Sydney stand-off or back-row forward, is the replacement for Henry Paul, who has joined Bradford - a move that has not been welcomed by all Wigan fans.

"He's a good player and a hard act to follow," Florimo said. "All I can promise the fans is that I'm not here for a holiday and I'll be giving 110 per cent to try to make Wigan as successful, if not more so."

Florimo, regarded as a model professional in Australia, will start preseason training with his new team-mates next week. "I can't wait to get started," he said. "It will seem strange at first after 13 years at Norths. I couldn't have played for another team in Australia and I enjoyed it in England when I was here with Australia in 1994."

Florimo has signed a two-year contract with Wigan and could soon be joined by another Australian, as Monie is widely expected to return to Britain this weekend with the signature of Brett Kimmorley.

The Melbourne Storm scrumhalf, who played for the Hunter Mariners in the World Club Championship against Wigan in 1997, can also play hooker and is seen as a player who can cover two departments in which the Wigan squad could be over-stretched.

Tony Smith is the only experienced scrum-half on the books, while Jon Clarke, the first-choice hooker following the departure or Robbie McCormack, faces a court appearance in the New Year.

The Halifax prop-forward, Richard Marshall, has agreed a new, two-year contract with the club. Marshall was wanted by the Super League newcomers, Wakefield Trinity, but the Halifax manager, David Hobbs, said he had always been confident that he would stay at The Shay.

Marshall is now in line to play in today's match at Huddersfield, who are expected to give first outings to their own new signings - Jim Leni-Test but this did not satisfy Tshwete | han, Andrew Tangata-Toa, Ian Pickavance and John Bentley.

Salford have signed the South African winger Mark Johnson from Hull after losing Darren Rogers to Castleford and Phil Coussons to

Coaches to blame, not the players

Sir: In the weeks after Manchester United relied on favourable results elsewhere to progress in Europe, is it not about time that the real culprits stood up to be counted and took the blame for British football's inability to achieve lasting success at European club and international level?

I refer to the coaches and man-

agers in this country who have failed time and time again to do justice to the players and supporters. If Celta Vigo's triumph over Liverpool does nothing else, surely the overwhelming defeat by this relative pauper (most expentell Liverpool it is how they are doing it that is wrong, not who they have. British playing talent is as good as any in the world, it just needs decent coaches. There are

a few - Steve Harrison consistently proves his ability - and Aston Villa have outperformed nearly everyone this season with a team of British journeymen. Clough rarely spent big money on players but made silk purses out of the likes of players like McGovern,

Burns, O'Hare and Robertson. When you have David Pleat as a "Director of Football" seeminghaps you should pay some he talks of Edgar Davids as a good box-to-box player who gets his foot in and Kluivert as a man with a good engine. I think he is

missing the point, or betraying that his focus is narrow, unimaginative and way off-beam - along with too many British colleagues. NIGEL CUBBAGE Markyate, Herts

Whip free new year Sir. Alison Maskell (Letters, 2 December) mocks my plea for the whip to be banned. She rests her case on "leave it to the professionals." Are these the same professionals who keep being banned

for improper use of the whip? However, it is heartening that soon there will be experiments in

whipless races. I feel an end to cruelty to race horses might come early in the 21st century. And what will the professionals do then?

> at Kelso recently. Very few whips in use on ground which took everything out of jockeys and horses. Yes, it can be done. JIM BRUNTON Edinburah

Home Office threat

to the independents Sir: What on earth can the Home Office be thinking of concerning

the re-constitution of The Bookmakers Committee to the Levy Board? This statutory body is responsible for recommending a levy for bookmakers to support racing. The committee is evenly divided between the larger concerns and the small operators

and the balance ensures the sur-

vival of the latter. The Home Office is proposing to give Ladbroke two seats, William Hill two seats, Coral two seats, British Office Licensees' Association (which the Big Three control) two seats, and four seats to the independents. You would not have to be a rocket scientist to

see the Home Office is giving Big Three bookmakers power to achieve whatever they would wish to on horserace levy matters. What is perhaps surprising is

the different views various goverament departments take on the issues relating to betting. Recently the Department of Trade and Industry upheld the Monopolies and Mergers Commission decision on the Ladbroke takeover of Coral It gave a clear message that government now had an aggressive competition policy. However, we now find that the big bookmakers have found another route to exploit through the

Home Office. What they have lost at the DTI, they will now gain at the Home Office. What a farce.

You might ask how this ludicrous state of affairs has come about. Our view is that it has been caused by the British Horseracing Board's silly demand for the levy to rise nearly two-and-a-half times and the Home Office's stated reluctance to determine the dispute if agreement between bookmakers and racing cannot be reached.

It is ironic that small bookmaker in rural areas who provide the public with the legal opportunity to bet is likely to suffer because of greed on the part of racing, a lack of responsibility in government, not to mention the Big Three bookmakers who are striving to achieve a complete oligopoly. WARWICK BARTLETT Chairman British Betting Office Association Ltd

ly acknowledged as a guru, persive player £1.25m) should at least attention to the things he says -

SNOW REPORTS in association with WorldCover Direct

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SKI HOTLINE Detailed independent snow and	Resort Are ope		Slope	s (cm) Upr	Last snow	Temp	Forecast
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	Pamporovo 100 CANADA	% Excellent cover	55	80	25.12	ОC	Cloudy
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For a fax copy of the latest snow	Courchevel 80	% Good upper levels	10	100	21,12	-2C	Cloud/snow
and weather reporc	Campirello15	% Fresh snow high ro	กร15	45	20.12	-4C	Overcast
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Fax 0906 55 00 601 Helpline: 0870 51 33 345	 	· .	I	nforma	tion supp	lied by	Ski Hotline

Helpline: 0870 51 33 345 Calls to 0901 cost 60p per min, 0906 cost £1 per min, 0870 calls are standard national rate. On or off piste, with WorldCover you're covered. 0800 365 121 WORLDCOVER TRIVEL INCURANCE

SPORTING DIGEST Savio, the Brazilian international mid-

fielder, said yesterday he had been fined 1.500,000 pesetas (£6.400) for returning late to Real Madrid af-ter the Christmas break. Savio arrived in Spain on Monday but missed Real Madrid's first training session after the holiday. Tottenham Hotspur have loaned both the striker Neale Fenn and the midfielder Peter Gain to Lincoln City

London Towers3 Birmingham Bollets ...3 Newcastle Eagles4 Gtr London Leopards 1 DARTS SIGOL PDC WORLD CHARPIONSHIP (Circus Timers, Purflect) Second round: J Ferrell (Eng) bc G Mawson (Carl) 3-2; P Taylor (Eng) bt J Lowe (Eng) 3-1; B Anderson (Eng) bt J Harvey (Sco) 3-2.

FOOTBALL John Collins, the Everton playmak-

BASKETBALL

UNIBALL TROPHY: Lekester Riders 93 Derby Storm 90 *(ot)*.

er, could be ruled out for two months after being forced to admit defeat in a long-running battle against a toe injury. The Scotland in-ternational is booked in for an operation early next week, although he eration early next week, although he could still play some part in Everton's FA Cup tie with Bristol City tomorrow. "I have required an operation for a few months," Collins said." I ried to play on with pain but my form has dipped and I am disappointed with that. The specialist said it will be six to eight weeks, which is a long time and something I have not had to cope with in my career." Collins hopes the operation will enable him to return with his will enable him to return with his of Everton's season.

midnesder Peter Gaint (o Linkolin City for a month, wednesday's Late Results: Scottish Premier Leagues Dundee Utd 1 Rangers 2; Hears 1 Dundee 2. Sentrooff Irish League Premier Divisions Ballymena 1 Crusaders 2; Portadown 1 Coleraine 2. Hirst Division: Ards 1 Lame 0; Ballydare 0 Discillery 1: Carrick 2 Limavedy Utd 3.

ICE HOCKEY SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Manchester 1 Newcastle 0.
NML: Ottawa 3 Buffalo 2 (ot); Carolina 4
Tampa Bay 3; New Jersey 3 Washinton 2;
Pitisburgh 7 Fiorida 4; Toronto 4 Anaheim
1; Boston 5 Nashville 2; Phoenba 3 NY
Rangers 1; Los Angeles 5 San Jose 1.
EASTERN CONFERENCE
NORTH-EAST DRUSSON

LT GE GA Pro

RALLYING

RALLYING

PARIS-DAKAR RALLY (Gramada, 59)

Protogue (20km/Skm timed section):
Cars: T K Shinozuka (Japan) Misubish Smin
11'sec; 2 J-1 Schlesser (Fr) Schlesser + 4sec;
3 J-P Fontenay (Fr) Misubish I same time:
4 M Prieto (Sp) Misubish +5: 5 J M Servis
(Sp) Schlesser +6: 6 H Masuoka (Japan) Misubish +18: 7 J Kleinschnick (Ger) Misubish +18: 9 T
De Lavergne (Fr) Misan +19: 10 Ge Mewus
(Bet) Nissan +24. Motorcycles: 1 D Von
2ltzewitz (Ger) KTM 4min 3/sec: 2 J Roma
(Sp) KTM +7sec; 3 J Fink (Aut) KTM +13:
4 G Sala (Ir) KTM +19: 5 F Fasola (Ir) KTM
+20: 6 F Flick (Fr) Honda 22, 7 O Gallar
co (Sp) SMW +23; 8 J Mayer (Ger) KTM
+23: 9 A Cox (SA) KTM +25; 10 P M Marques (Por) KTM +25

Italy's Giovanni Soldini is expected in Auckland today to win in his 60ft

In Aucklang today to win in his out: Fila the second leg of the Around Alone race from Cape Town. He had a near 200-mile lead over a very tired Mike Golding, whose Team Group 4 may take a further 24 hours. But, in turn, he has more than 250 miles as the Secondary Mary Thierceling. in turn, he has more than 250 miles on the Frenchman, Marc Thiercelin, who now has his compatriot, Isabelle Autissier, just 13 miles astern. That should mean the overall standings at the half-way point will remain the same, Golding Increasing his lead over Autissier, Thiercelin slipping a little, Soldini reducing his five-day deficit by 24 hours. Josh Hall will be further behind in fifth place. Way out in front in Class II. though there are still 600 miles to go, is Jean-Pierre still 600 miles to go, is Jean-Pierre Mouligne, as a more relaxed, second-

placed Mike Garside reported that an auto pilot, which had previously falled, conveniently came back to life just as the main one died.

SKIING EXHIBITION SHORT GIANT SLALOM (Sestriert, R. Alberto Tombe's faremell race): 1 P Accola (Swit) 52.06sec 2 P Hotz-er (It) 52 10: 3 A Tomba (It) 52.18: 4 M Von Grüngen (Swit) 52.19; 3 J Kosir (Sloven) 52.36: 8 I Bormolini (It) 52.40; 7 R Salzge-ber (Aut) 52.52; 8 T Sciansen (Nor) 52.58.

SQUASH England's Sue Wright, Cassie Jackman and Suzanne Horner are third. fourth and fifth respectively in the latest world rankings. Australia pro-vide the top two, with Michelle Mar-

din retaining No 1 status and Sarah Pitz-Gerald second place.

TODAY'S NUMBER

14.9m The salary in dollars earned by

the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball player Gary Sheffield – record earnings for a single season.

TODAY'S FIXTURES FOOTBALL

3.0 unless stated
SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

SCOTTISM PREMIERA CONTROL MACHINERY IN PRIMARY IN A MACHINERY IN A DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Di-DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Di-rision: Atherstone v Bromsgrove: Boston Utd v Cambridge City, Crawley v Hastings: Dorchester v Weymouth; Gresley Rowers v Burton Alblon; Hale-sowen Town v Nuneaton: Merthyr Tyd-fil v Bath; Rothwell v Grantham; Salisbury v Gloucester: Worcester v Tam-worth. Mildland Division: Bedworth v Stafford Rangers: Bilston v Stourbridge; Blowich v Hindey Utd; Clevedon v Red-ditrit: Moor Green v Blakenali. Newport Bloanich v Hinoley Uta; Cevedon v Hed-ditch; Moor Green v Blakenall; Newport (Gwent) v Evesham Utd; Pager Rangers v Stamford; Racing Warwick v Weston-super-Mare; Sollhull Borough v Cinder-ford; VS Rugby v Sutton Coldfield; Wisbech v Shepshed Dynamo, South-ern Division: Baldock v Fisher Athletera bwission Battock y Fisher Ameri-ke; Bashley v Andover: Chelmsford v Raunds: Corby v Grencester; Dartford v Margate; Fiest v Newport (loW); Folke-stone Invitat v Tonbridge; Sittingbourne v Ashford; St Leonards v Erith & Belvedere; Wilmey v Brackley; Yate v Ha-rant & Wheelfonkilley

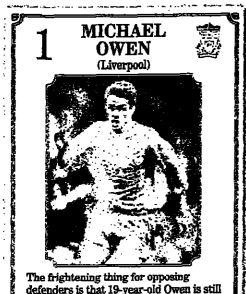
vant & Waterlooville. SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Division: Glentoran v Glenavon; Newry

HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: St Patrick's Athletic v Shelbourne (7.35).

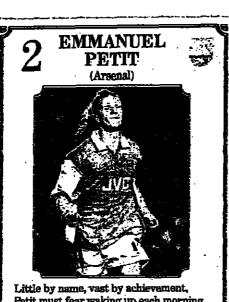
RUGBY LEAGUE FRIENDLY MATCHES: Huddersfield v Halifax (3.0), Leeds v Castleford (3.0): Rochdale v Oldham (3.0).

OTHER SPORTS DARTS: Skol PDC World Championship (at Circus Tovern, Purfleet).

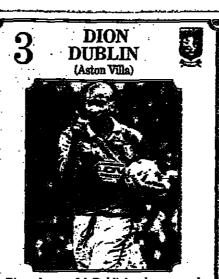
The top twenty players of 1998



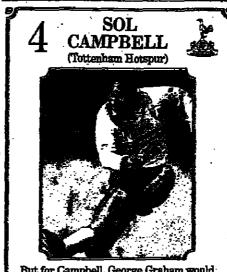
defenders is that 19-year-old Owen is still learning. Not since Pele burst into the conscioneness 40 years ago has a teenager made such an impact on a World Cup. His goal against Argentina, like Hurst's third in 1966 and Banks' save four years later, is a landmark in English



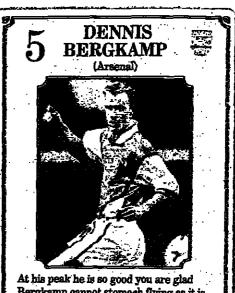
Petit must fear waking up each morning in case 1998 is just a dream. In 12 months he has won the World Cup, the championship, the FA Cup and the Charity Shield and must wonder how the League Cup somehow slipped him by. After that anything will be an anti-



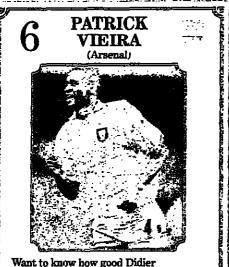
Big and powerful, Dublin's role appeared to be that of an above-average journeyman pro until John Gregory achieved what might prove to be his master-stroke by signing him for Aston Villa. Since then he has scored more quickly than Dennis Wise has earned bookings. If he continues, a championship



But for Campbell, George Graham would probably be attempting to resurrect Tottenham from the First Division. A rock among peobles, he was magnificent last season and, if anything, has got better since. His performance against Argentina in the World Cup was as awesome. Now if only his "goal" had beer



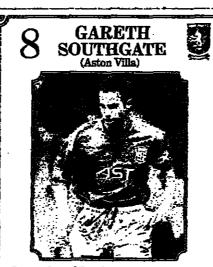
Bergkamp cannot stomach flying as it is the only evidence of frailty. Smooth as a cool Guinness in a Duhlin pub, he was outstanding in Arsenal's run-in last season and scored the best goal in the World Cup. Only a post-France shamp has denied him No 1 spot in this top 20.



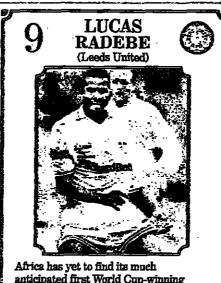
Want to know how good Didier Deschamps is? A measure is that he can keep the Arsenal midfielder out of the French team. Strong, eager and intelligent, Vieirs formed the best midfield in the Premiership with Petit last season and as the post-World Cup sloth is dusted off could do so again. Has to watch his temper.



You could have had long odds on Ginola becoming the linchpin of a Graham team, but he has allied inspiration to labour so that even Granite George has softened. Suddenly Spurs look capable of winning things again and could do so in the Worthington Cup this Spring. If they do, expect Ginola to be footballer of the year.



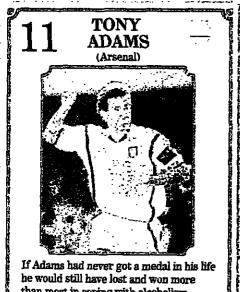
Injury denied Southgate a proper platform at the World Cup but he has made up for it since. Ehiogu and Barry have been outstanding, but even they have been eclipsed by their captain, who has been a major reason why Aston Villa top the Premiership. Articulate and intelligent, a job in the media is his



anticipated first World Cup-winning nation, but it is unearthing increasing numbers of world-class players, as Radebe proves. Took a while to find his position but is now established as captain of Leeds and one of the best centre-backs in Britain. Liverpool would love to buy



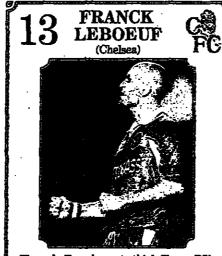
After a slow start at Arsenal he finished last season as equal to Bergkamp and Petit as a major player in the Double. A quick and direct winger, he also contributed important goals, including the winner at Old Trafford and the first in the FA Cup final. Surprisingly, he failed to make much impact in France 98.



than most in coping with alcoholism. Injury brought 1998 to a frustrating end but before that he led Arsenal to the Double and had a commanding World Cup. His goal against Everton as the title was won summed up Wenger's Gunners.



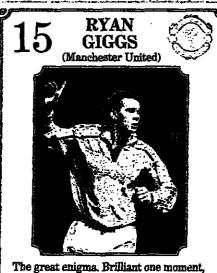
Beckham nevertheless is a magnificent talent, as opposition fans would realise if they stopped hurling abuse and watched him. His natural position is said to be central midfield, although he is also the best crosser in the Premiership. Will never live down that sending off.



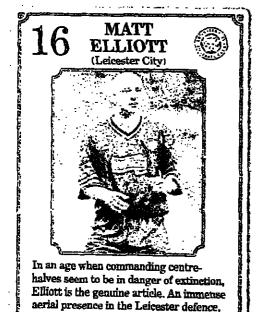
The only Frenchman to think Slaven Bilic is OK, he made a late and winning appearance in the French team that won the World Cup and was hugely influential for Chelsea's lesser double last season. Does not like confronting big, bruising centre forwards but, given time, he is the best passer from defence in the country.



Glenn Hoddle might count the goals per chances ratio, but Cole remains prolific. His Manchester United place appeared under threat when Yorke was bought but he has forged a partnership that has prospered on and off the field. Speed is his greatest asset, but his distribution and control have improved beyond recognition.



hair-tearingly crass the next. Giggs has reserved his best moments for the Champions' League, where his speed and ability have frightened the world's best defenders. Still prone to injury, however, and his crossing sometimes is painful to watch. We await the full flow of genius.



is his ability on the floor that surprises.

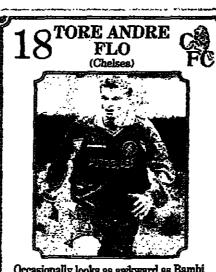
He is almost as likely to score a goal as

stop one. Scotland should have made

more of him - and will do so in future.

NICOLAS ANELKA (Arsenal) Pace is the most sublime of gifts in the modern game and he has it to spare.

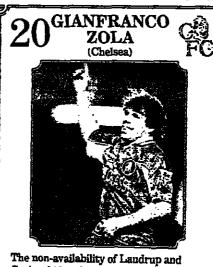
Gérard Houllier regards Anelka as the most naturally talented boy he has ever seen and although he can still look gauche he has an FA Cup final goal and a Double to his name. The same age as Owen, the comparison is going to be fascinating.



Occasionally looks as awkward as Bambi on ice, then the feet suddenly find purchase and poise and he produces something that astonishes. At 6ft 4in he is always going to be a handful in the air, but he is quicker and more skilful than his size would imply. His form will be crucial to Chelsea's title hopes.



defenders always found him a handful. To date he has delivered at the rate of two goals every three games. Some players are intimidated by Old Trafford, but he has the audacity to turn up his collar and attempt to imitate the inimitable, Europe will expose whether £12m was too much.



Castraghi has forced Gianluca Vialli's hand so that Zola starts nearly every match for Chelsea. Inch for inch the best player in Britain, if he can withstand the rigours of a Premiership season Chelsea will go very close. Scored an exquisite goal to win the Cup-Winners' Cup.

BUBBLING UNDER

- 21 Rio Ferdinand (West Ham) 22 Muzzy Izzet (Leicester City) 23 Gustavo Poyet (Cheisea) 24 Lee Hendrie (Aston Villa)
- 25 Nigel Martyn (Leeds United) 26 Emile Heskey (Leicester City) 27 Roberto Di Matteo (Chelsea)
- 28 Paulo Wanchope (Derby County) 29 Paul Scholes (Manchester Utd) 30 Lee Bowyer (Leeds United) 31 Martin Keown (Arsenal) 32 Ian Wright (West Ham United)
- 35 Nigel Winterburn (Arsenal) 36 Neil Redfeam (Charlton) 37 Gareth Barry (Aston Villa) 38 Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (Leeds United) 39 Harry Kewell (Leeds United) 40 Michael Hughes (Wimbledon)

PLAYER PROFILES BY **GUY HODGSON**

LAST YEAR'S TOP 20

8 Roy Keane (Manchester United) 9 Patrick Vielra (Arsenal) 10 Ryan Giggs (Manchester United)

11 Sol Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur) 12 Alan Shearer (Newcastle United) 13 Matt Elliott (Leicester City) 14 Dennis Wise (Chelsea)

15 Nicky Butt (Manchester United) 16 Kevin Gallacher (Blackburn Rovers) 17 Chris Sutton (Blackburn Rovers)

18 Ian Wright (Arsenal) 19 Steve McManaman (Liverpool) 20 Franck Leboeuf (Chelsea)

33 Andy Townsend (Middlesbrough) 34 Steve Guppy (Leicester City)



1 Dennis Bergkamp (Arsenai)

3 Peter Schmeichel (Manchester Utd)

4 Paul Scholes (Manchester United)

6 David Beckham (Manchester United)

5 John Hartson (West Ham United)

7 Nigel Martyn (Leeds United)

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Joyce's Tigers tale in need of revision

IT IS said that there are some peo-ple at the top of English football who rolling, from one week to the next, trying to win themselves the hope would do away with the FA Cup, driven by their élitism to regard everything outside the Premiership and European Champions' League as less and less relevant

What a sad fate that would be for the competition that is the essence of football tradition, sounding the death knell for such dwindling romance as remains in a game seduced by commercialism. There would be none of those marvellous. giant-killing dramas that bring winter Saturdays alive; ties like that for which Villa Park is preparing would simply not happen.

Tomorrow's third-round match between Aston Villa and Hull City represents the very top of the Premier League against the very bottom of the Nationwide: first against 92nd in the English pecking order. It would be difficult to come up with two other clubs whose respective circumstances are so vastly different: Villa rolling their dice among the biggest players, the Tigers merely

trying to win themselves the hope of a future. Yet for 90 minutes all other distractions will be suspended as 11 men meet 11.

"For us, it is just a fantastic occasion, a day that will make us some money and a game we could even win," Warren Joyce, Hull's player-manager, said.

"It is a break, a chance to play without pressure. But it should not distract attention from the real task ahead of us, which is to get enough points to keep us in the League."

Joyce was obliged to confront reality seven weeks ago when Mark Hateley, the high-profile manager brought in by the Hull's former owner, the tennis entrepreneur David Lloyd, was dismissed by the consortium that had just bought

The 33-year-old former captain, who served Bolton, Preston, Plymouth and Burnley before moving to Boothferry Park in 1996, had by then effectively become Hateley's assistant. Were it not for his popu-

Tomorrow's third-round tie links the two clubs at opposite ends of the

League - and comes as a blessed relief for Hull. By Jon Culley

larity on the terraces - he was supporters for City's decline on the

Hull's player of the year last season - he might not have survived the shake-up, but, after impressing the new regime in his period as caretaker. Joyce was confirmed as the new man in charge.

"It is not an easy situation," he said. "But then you have to be realistic and accept that the opportunity would not have cropped up if we had not been in a mess.

Lloyd's reign had been a traumatic one. The Great Britain Davis Cup captain, who made a fortune from a string of indoor tennis centres, pumped £4m into a dream of transforming City from footballing outpost into a major concern. But he was opposed in his plans to quit Boothferry Park and blamed by

field. Local distrust of the Essex boy turned close to hatred when he accused Hull people of "living in the

dark ages". Lloyd threatened to close the club but was dissuaded at the 11th hour when Torn Belton, the potato farmer who was once chairman of Scunthorpe, arrived with a 12-strong consortium to buy him out.

City are no longer on the brink but after four consecutive League defeats they enter 1999 six points adrift of next-to-bottom Scarborough, requiring dramatic improvement if they are not to start next season in the Conference.

It is a fate Joyce refuses to contemplate. "If I thought we couldn't stay in the League I'd might as well

not be here," he said, "But we have not been losing by big scores.

Mark left me with some players with a lot of potential but there were not enough men about the place," Jovce said. "Ben Morley, who scored our first goal at Luton in the last round, is only 18 and we have half a dozen others in the squad aged 20 or less. We needed some experi-

Armed with a modest transfer pot, Joyce paid £60,000 each for defenders Jason Whittle (from Stoke) and Stephen Swales (from Reading) and a further £25,000 for the Scarborough forward Gareth Williams. And he persuaded John McGovern, the manager who launched his career at Bolton, to become his right-hand

Having learned to coach at Manchester United's school of excellence - he worked there while playing for Burnley - Joyce has come to the job with a clear philosophy. But given that circumstances force him to continue playing, the touchline experience of McGovern is vital.

"Combining two roles has made it harder still," he said. "Better player-managers than me find it tough to do both jobs and there are only three of us on the staff - John, myself and Rod Arnold, who looks

after the youth team. "On any given day I might be training in the morning, sitting on the phone all afternoon and watching a game at night. If I get an injury, just finding the time for treatment can be a nightmare."

He watched Villa lose at Blackburn last Saturday evening, after dashing from Hull's match at Chester in the afternoon, although having seen Villa on television so many times there was little to find out that he did not aiready know. "We'll give it our best and try to

win as we would any other game," he said. "But whatever the result it is a chance for the club to make some cash and for the 6,000 fans coming with us it is a day out to enjoy.

"The fans have been different class since I've been in charge. And the directors have given me a



Joyce: 'Not an easy situation'

lot of support, too. After our game at Scunthorpe, when the lads worked hard and were unlucky to be beaten, several of them came down to the dressing-room afterwards. You don't get that too often when you

"They deserve a good day, too. We're all in this fight together."

Terriers

banned

for light

failures

NON-LEAGUE

NOTEBOOK

BEDLINGTON TERRIERS have en-

joyed mixed fortunes in FA compe-

titions this season. The little

Northumberland club were the he-

roes of the FA Cup first round after

their 4-1 thrashing of Colchester

United, but they have not been so

A week after losing 2-0 at Scun-

thorpe United in the second round

of the FA Cup, Terriers entertained

more modest opposition, Mickleover

Sports, in the third round of the Vase

on 12 December. They established

a healthy 4-1 lead but, after 55 min-

utes, the Welfare Ground floodlights

on a long midweek trek to the north-

ast for the re-arranged tie. Despite

being without some key players due

to work commitments, the Derby-

shire side were winning 3-0 when,

with just 14 minutes to go, the flood-

that the problem would be solved

promptly, the Welfare Ground re-

mained shrouded in darkness and,

in similarly black mood, Mickleover

Despite pledges from Bedlington

lights failed again.

Four days later, Mickleover set off

failed and could not be repaired.

lucky in the FA Carlsberg Vase.

BY RUPERT METCALF

Tide of support with Africans in 2006

BY GLENN MOORE

AMID THE popping of champagne corks and chants of "Auld Lang Syne" last night, an important football deadline passed. The second biggest prize in world football, after winning the World Cup, is to stage the quadrennial jamboree and the application period to host the 2006 competition formally closed in Zürich last night.

The seven-nation shortlist has a distinctly African flavour, with four countries applying. They represent the length and breadth of the continent, from Morocco and Egypt in the north, to sub-tropical Ghana in the west, and South Africa in the south. Africa has never hosted the finals and Sepp Blatter, the president of football's governing body, Fifa, has already said it would be "logical" to take the 2006 finals there.

However, Blatter has stressed that all World Cup requirements must be met. That means providing modern stadia, transport and telecommunications, and safe conditions for players and spectators (not to mention sponsors). This is where England and Germany the European

candidates, will hope to capitalise. The seventh candidate is Brazil, which is relying on the emotional pull of those famous yellow shirts and the logical attraction of a first South

American finals since Argentina 78. Fifa still insists that splitting the finals, as with South Korea and Japan in 2002, is not an option, but this is not an absolute. It was not supposed to be an option in 2002. However, negotiations for 2002 are not going well and another split finals - which would only be practical between England and Germany of the bidders - is unlikely.

Campaigning will now intensify, along with the bad-mouthing. Already England, having carefully kept quiet until now, have begun dropping mentions of South Africa's "crime" problem into their pronouncements.

And vesterday the campaign director for England's 2006 bid. Alec McGivan, spoke out in response to Franz Beckenbauer's recent claim that Brazil posed a bigger threat to Football Association settles its in-Germany's bid than the English

"There has been evidence of a lack of enthusiasm among the German full council on Monday 4 January. If community, and indeed the German he is reprieved, or finds a constitugovernment in the past," McGivan said. "I think one of the things that the Germans have openly envied has been the support we have had from our own government for the bid we

are putting forward."

WORLD CUP 2006: HOW THEY LINE UP FOR FOOTBALL'S GREATEST PRIZE **ENGLAND** Football pedigree: Cradie of Football pedigree: Three times the game, World Cup winners. World Cup winners, three times Hosting history: World Cup European Championship winners. 1966, European Hosting history: World Cup 1974, Championship 1996, Olympics European Championship 1988, Olympics 1936, 1972. 1908, 1948. Positives: Excellent infrastructure Positives: Historical pull, successful Euro 96, excellent and stadia. Influential friends in stadiums and infrastructure. Uefa and Fifa. Negatives: Mixed popular support Government support. Negatives: Diplomatically within Germany. Hosted as recently isolated. FA leadership crisis. Conclusion: Contenders. Conclusion: Contenders Football pedigree: First African nation in Fifa (1923), twice in World Cup, three Football pedigree: Four World times African Nations Cup winners. Hosting history: African Nations' Cup: 1957, 1959, 1970, 1974, 1986, Hosting history: African Nations' Positives: Relatively wealthy, longestablished football base, symbolise Positives: Building support after two previous bids. Played in last growing Arabic influence. Negatives: Internal and external security two World Cups. concerns, infrastructure. Negatives: Doubts about stadia Conclusion: Outsiders. and infrastructure. **Conclusion:** Outsiders Football pedigree: Banned from Fifa under apartheid, won African Nations in 1996 and competed in 1998 World Cup. Hosting history: African Nations: 1996. Positives: The emotional choice after contender. Also hosted 1995 rugby 2000. World Cup, 1998 athletics World Cup, and several cricket tours. Negatives: Concerns about security, BRAZIL Football pedigree: Unrivalled.

Football nedigree: Never

appeared in World Cup but

Nations Cup: 1963, 1978

Negatives: Doubts over

of World Cup pedigree.

vouth tournaments. Hosting history: African

four times African Nations' Cup

winners and impressive in Fifa

Positives: Only central African

inance and infrastructure, lack

1934

1938

1954

1958

1930 South America

1950 South America

1962 South America

Europe

Europe

Europe

Europe

Europe

especially post-Mandela. Infrastructure still needs work.



WORLD CUP FINALS 1930-98: CROWD APPEAL

1982

1990

Europe

Europe

1994 North America

1986 Central America Mexico

(23, 235)

(26.833)

(60,772)

(36,270)

(24.800)

(24,250)

(50,458)

434,500

395,000

483.000

1.337.000

943.000

868,000

776.000

1.614.677

Uruguay

Italy

France

Brazii

Switzerland

Chile

England

THE TIMETABLE 31 Dec 1998: Deadline for July 1999: Deadline for Various Fifa working parties then evaluate the bids with ite visits until end January March 2000: Decision. THE DECISION MAKERS he Flfa executive: J Blatter (pres. Switzerland); J Grondona (Argentina), W Hay (Scotland), L Johansson (Sweden). I Hayatou (Cameroon), Dr A Matarrese (Italy), Dr M-J Chung (Korea), J Warner (Trinidad and Tobago), A Al-Dabal (Saudi Arabia), S Aloulou (Tunisia), M D'Hooghe (Belgium), I Sasso Sasso (Costa Rica), R Teixeira (Brazil), P Omdal (Norway), M Bin Hammam (Qatar), S Erzik (Turkey), C Dempsey (NZ), C Blazer (US), W Makudi (Thai),

D Nicolas Leoz (Paraguay), | Bhamjee (Botswana), A Dlakite

2,064,364 (38,816)

2,441,731 (46,956)

2,515,168 (48,368)

3.567,415 (68.604)

2.775.400 (43.366)

(Mali), A Llona Villar (Spain), J

1970 Central America Mexico 1.673.975 (52.311)

1978 South America Argentina 1,610,215 (42,374)

Spain

italy

USA

Europe W Germany 1.774,022 (46,684)

set off south again with the tie still undecided The Football Association decided this week that the tie will now take place tomorrow at Mickleover's Station Road ground in Derby. The Redferns Central Midlands League side were not happy with Terriers' suggestion that the match should be played at a neutral venue - Blyth Spartans, just five miles from Bedlington. If a replay is required, it will be back at Mickleover next week, as Bedlington have been banned from playing home games in FA compe-

fourth round tomorrow week. Meanwhile, Colchester are probably wishing that the lights had failed at the Welfare Ground during their calamitous FA Cup fixture! Another Vase tie is being played tomorrow in east London, where Barkingside entertain Oldbury United after three postponements due to a waterlogged pitch.

titions under lights until their lights

have gained FA approval. Banstead

Athletic will visit the winners in the

Away from cup competitions, Altrincham swept to the top of the Uni-Bond League Premier Division after collecting six points from their two Christmas fixtures: a 3-0 victory at Runcorn followed by a 4-1 home win over Marine. The Robins have had a remarkable resurgence this season. There was talk of a crisis at Moss Lane when the former Alliance Premier League champions picked up just four points from their first eight games, but they have now collected 38 from the last 45 on offer to race up the table. They entertain fifth-placed Guiseley tomorrow. Another club setting a fast pace

in the race for promotion to the Football Conference are Nuneaton Borough, who have built up a huge 17-point lead at the top of the Dr Martens League Premier Division. They visit Halesowen Town today and entertain troubled Merthyr Tydfil on Sunday as the Dr Martens crams in two fixture cards over the New Year holiday weekend.

Things are much tighter at the top of the Ryman League, where Aylesbury United could be deposed if they lose at Gravesend & Northfleet tomorrow. The Ducks hold a slender one-point lead over three teams level on points in the Premier Division title race: St Albans City, Purfleet and Sutton United.

It is especially important that the 2000, are likely to be Germany and land's best chance. Scots forecast bright future for winter halt

SCOTTISH FOOTBALLS attempts to re-invent itself will take a radical step forward immediately after the Old Firm game on Sunday. The match between Rangers and Celtic at Ibrox weeks as the newly-established Premier League takes a three-week winter break.

The idea is not new, of course, with most European countries operating a similar system, but it is one that has been welcomed by Scotland's top clubs and could be copied by the Premiership in England

This year - especially when the domestic season has followed hard on the heels of the World Cup - the idea of a hiatus is one that appeals particularly to players who are beginning to suffer from the demands of yearround football. Tommy Boyd, the Celtic captain, is embracing the chance to recharge the batteries. "A lot of players are still suffering from the World Cup," he said. "Personally, I would like to see a longer break but

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er (Blackburg Rosers)

(Blackout - Roley)

samer illering ut (Cheise).

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it is certainly very welcome." The break is just one of several innovations initiated by the Premier League with the aim of improving the Scottish game. It comes at a time when some players in the successful clubs, chiefly Rangers and Celtic, February it won't look so good." The

with the introduction of a three-week hiatus. By David McKinney will be the last action for three have already taken part in close to 30 move is being especially welcomed games and, according to Roger by those clubs who have under-

four times World Cup winners, four

times Copa America champions.

Hosting history: World Cup 1950:

Copa America 1919, 1922, 1949,

Football-obsessed population.

Positives: Football's spiritual

American hosts for 28 years,

Ranking: Slight contenders.

ternal crisis quickly. Keith Wiseman,

the lame-duck chairman, faces the

tional way to hang on until the sum-

mer meeting, the consequences for

Lancaster Gate, England's main ri-

vals, come the final vote in March,

Assuming order is restored at

England's bid could be grave.

Influence within Fifa, Pele.

home, bidding to be first South

Negatives: Chaotic administration,

crime in major cities, condition of

Mitchell, the chief executive of the Scottish Premier League, the change will be welcomed by everybody.

"It gives players, pitches and fans a break from football. After Christmas we feel the supporters are consumered out, so it's better to have a break and it also gives us two events in one championship because we'll be able to re-launch the League. One games in the first half of the season is to fit in the break."

In common with its English equivalent, the Premier League in Scotland insists on pitch protection for its members. So even if the gamble of a break in January can be bostage to the vagaries of the weather, Mitchell believes cancellations will be kept to a minimum. "The clubs all have an obligation to provide a good playing surface," he said. "so the pitches will have a chance to recover although we are aware that if we break now and have a bad

performed so far, a three-week break providing an opportunity to re-assess their position and, crucially, bring

This weekend marks a break with tradition north of the border

South Africa. The latter are

favourites, but even coming second

might be enough. Fifa will reserve

the right to move the finals if South

Africa destabilises politically or fails

to meet infrastructure require-

ments. This happened to Colombia

in 1986 when Mexico stepped in to

the breach. Given the weight of

support swinging behind South

Africa, this scenario could be Eng-

back injured players. Dunfermline have found themselves rooted to the foot of the table for most of the campaign and, although they are one of the few clubs who will not be travelling to the sun for a break, Dick Campbell, their

could be vital to their survival prospects. "We've had a few injuries to key players," he said, "and we feel we've drawn more games than any other club because we have to change our team for every match. Like Dundee United and Aberdeen we can now look forward to January as a chance to start again."

The success of the mid-season break will be monitored closely from south of the border as the English of the reasons we have had a lot of assistant manager, feels the rest Premiership receives increasing

Williamson plays it cool

Williamson, is still refusing to set 1997, insists that talk of the champgoals for his high-fliers, despite the Rugby Park outfit entering the new year firmly in contention for the title.

The Ayrshire club go into today's game at Motherwell knowing that, regardless of the result at Fir Park, they will remain second behind Rangers when the Premier League restarts on 30 January after its mid-winter break.

THE KILMARNOCK manager, Bobby marnock to Scottish Cup success in ionship at this stage is premature.

"I don't set targets," he said. "These days, two or three bad results can get a manager the sack, so looking that far forward has no merit. Jerome Vareille's shoulder injury

means Williamson must choose between the experience of Ally McCoist or the promise of Mark Roberts to However, Williamson, who led Kil-partner Paul Wright in attack today.

calls to emulate the Scots, John Gregory, the Aston Villa manager, for one, this week suggested a similar scheme be implemented. "I don't feel there is the need to

play at Christmas now in the Premiership," Gregory said. "It is about time we got our heads together and our acts together and maybe have a shut-down for a couple of weeks, because it's a crazy period in which to be battling for points." The possibility of England fol-

lowing suit is not one that concerns the Scottish Premier League's Roger Mitchell, but he does believe it would be beneficial. "If it can be fitted into the calendar I think the English would be interested, but with so many games in the calendar now, including an expanded Champions' League, they will have to decide their priority," he said.

The increase in fixtures could signal the end of the League Cup. certainly in Scotland. Mitchell added: "We have to be sensible about the number of games players involved and maybe we'll have to make sacrifices." It has not been often that the Scots have led the way in British football, but perhaps the adoption of a mid-season break will be an innovation the English will come to accept.



HOLIDAY DESTINATIONS Aberdeen: staying at home Celtic: Spain Dundee: to be arranged Dundee United: Florida Dunfermline: staying at home Heart of Midlothian: Portugal Kilmarnock: Portugal Motherwell: Tenerife Rangers: Florida St Johnstone: Spain

Baronet to take honours for Maguire

IT HAS been a difficult week for BY GREG WOOD Adrian Maguire, who resigned from his job as David Nicholson's retained jockey when it Nicholson's yard, was one of the became all too obvious that many of the trainer's owners wanted Richard Johnson to

ride their horses instead. There are still some old friends he can rely on, though, and Baronet, who carried him to victory in the Scottish National back in April, is a case in

The extended four-mile chase at Cheltenham today was once the feature event of the afternoon, but while it has now been relegated from the televised spotlight, it provides Maguire with an excellent chance to remind everyone on in the handicap hurdle half that he is still in business.

Baronet (1.00) has inevitably risen in the weights since his win at Ayr, but there is nothing wrong with his appetite for a struggle, unlike both Seven Towers and Him Of Praise. two of his main rivals today. It will be a slog, but between them, Baronet and Maguire

Colin Smith, the owner of owners who pledged to remain loyal to Maguire, and he has proved as good as his word with the Irishman taking the ride on Saddlers' Roe in the juvenile event Dangerus Precedent (1.35) is the more likely winner, though, while Lady Rebecca (next best 2.10) is the one to be

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Jathib (Cheltenham 2.45) NB: Muhassil (Catterick 3.30)

an hour later, in which Richard Johnson gets his chance to impress on a Nicholson-trained horse when he wears Lord Vestey's colours on Castle

The feature race is a handicap chase with all sorts of pos-Banjo, who is ridden by sibilities, and includes Mahler and Fine Thyne, who both ran well for a long way when at-Edmondson nips in

tempting the impossible against Teeton Mill in the Hernessy Gold Cup. Northern Starlight, a winner

at the last meeting here for Tony McCoy, is another with every chance, while Senor El Betrutti, who has never looked to lack courage, is asked to race in blinkers for the first time. "He's usually exuberant but he hasn't been attacking his fences like he did last season." his trainer, Susan Nock, said yesterday. "Things haven't gone well with him and we thought we had to try one or two things. Blinkers may help focus him." At today's weights, though, Mr Strong Gale (2.45) has every chance of reversing his Tripleprint Gold Cup form

with Northern Starlight. Only six go to post for the Sporting Index Select Chase over the cross-country course, which will be a stern test for any jockey who woke up with a delicate head this morning.

Johnson for Nicholson, would give lumps of weight to the field if the race were a handicap, and clearly stands every chance. His attitude is slightly questionable, though, and previous form around this course could count for more. LINDEN'S LOTTO (nap 3.20) won the last race around it back in November, and he should be backed to make the experience count. The fact that one Adrian Maguire is the man on his back will not do him any harm either.



Banjo has the weights in his favour but may lack the attitude for today's cross-country chase at Cheltenham

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1.35: WAVE ROCK has progressed steadily and showed plenty of fight at Lingfield. He is going to make life tough for Dangerus Precedent.

2.10: This could be tougher than it first appears and it is hard to choose between the in-form LADY REBECCA, Alpine Panther and Papo Kharisma. Unable to quicken when the pace lifted two out when fourth over 2m at Newbury in November, Lady

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

Rebecca then slammed Zafarabad over this course and distance and is developing into a top-class staying hurdler.

2.45: Northern Starfight did not have much to spare when just holding Simply Dashing in

and, as he is on the small side, could be vulnerable under an extra 12th. Fine Thyne will be more at home on this ground than he was on the soft in the Hennessy, but consistent CAPENWRAY deserves this crack at the big league. Suc-

month by 12 lengths, despite a 13lb hike in the handicap. A in the lead three out when sound jumper now, he also

cessful five times over fences

last season, he has continued

to progress and completed a

trip than this on good to soft ground here in November.

3.20: Court Melody is favoured by the race conditions along with Banjo, though neither is totally reliable and LINDEN'S LOTTO can make his experience of this cross-country course tell. hat-trick at Leicester last A safe jumper, he was going well within himself when left winning a similar event over FIRST SHOW

CHELTENHAM 2.45							
. _	C	н	L				
Сарыяназу	8-1	_41	41	41	41		
Northern Startight	9-2	41	72	41	9-2		
Бреергау	41	5-1	9-2	41	8-2		
Pete The Paraco	13-2	5-1	13-2	π-2	13-2		
Mr Strong Gala	7-1	13-2	7-1	7-1	11-2		
Korweith King	10-1	10-1	91	9-1	9-1		
Matte	ZJ-1	10-1	23-1	9-1	10-1		
Fice Tityme	12-1	10-1	9-1	10 -1	10-1		
delitika	14-1	20-1	16-1	25-1	18-1		
Senor & Beirutti	40-1	22-1	28-1	33-1	25-1		
Go Universal	40-1	33-1	20-1	33-1	33-1		
Each-way, a	Min Ing	odds,	places	1,23	_		
C Const. 11 William	HR, LL	adomi	85, 28	larley.	f Tota		

CHELTENHAM

RICHARD EDMONDSON increased his lead at the top

of the Racing Post tipsters' table yesterday when his nap

selection. Just Nip, won at odds of 3-1 following Goodtime

George the previous day at 11-10. A £1 daily stake on

Edmondson's naps during the National Hunt season would

12.30 Kadou Nonantais 1.00 Flaked Oats .35 Wave Rock 2.10 Lady Rebecca

now yield a healthy profit of £38.98.

2.45 Capenwray (nb) 3.20 Cavalero 3.55 Splendid Thyne

2.10 Laby Redecca

GOING: Good to Soft (Good in places); Cross country course - Soft.

Left-hand, galloping course with stiff tences. Uphill run-in of 240yds.

Course is Im N of fown off A436. Bus link from Cheltenham station (served by Bristot, Berningham and London, Paddington) 2m. ADMISSION: Cub & Tatterselss combined 672 (juriors, 16-34 years, 28); Course Endosure St. CAR PARK: Free.

FIVE-VEAR STATISTICS

LEADING THAINERS: M Pipe 42-277 (15-2%), D Nilcholson 31-307 (15%), N Twiston-Davies 22-210 (10-5%), J Gifford 16-118 (13-6%), Mrs J Pitman 15-70 (21-4%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 41-59 (25-6%), N Williamson 33-160 (20-6%), R Durmoody 32-196 (35-3%), J Obome 28-128 (21-9%), A Maguire 20-140 (14-3%).

FAVOURITES: 205-514 (39-9%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Him Of Preise (100), Senor El Betrutti (2-45).

12.30 BARING BINGHAM NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £10,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £7,003 - 8 declared -BETTING: 8-11 Kadou Norantals, 4-1 Song Of The Sword, 5-1 Majadou, 7-1 Lord Noelle, 14-1 Eighbert,

33-1 others 1998: Mehler & 11 4 C Llewellyn 9-2 (N Twiston-Davies) & ran FORM GUIDE

Kardou Nonamitals: Confirmed his class giving weight all round to experienced field when beating Carlingford Gele a length at Lingfield (2m4) hcap ch, soft). Still prone to errors but rated a Royal & SunAliance Chase prospect Song Of The Swords Easy course winner from Shore Party in Oct but limitations exposed when 22 lengths 3rd of 5 to Spendid here (3m 1) nov ch, good) latest. Has considered in find. ng as med as Towns: Curtolassed when distant 4th of 5 to King Of Sparta over course

Dunnicks Town: Curclassed when distant 4th of 5 to King Of Sparia over course and distance on latest start and likely to find this company too hot again. Eishtiken; Useful debut 2nd to Executive King, but disappointing when 4T lengths 4th of 8 to Bramshaw Wood over same course (3m, good to soft), improvement to make Lord Noellier. Useful novice hurder, off the mark at Stratford in October Loole sort. to make a chaser and sure to have been well schooled, interesting prosp Rashskin; insh point to point winner. Led early, soon weakened when pulled up 4 vasarskin; irish point of point without a Lee dark; soon weakened when pulsed up a out in race won by Mariborough at Lingfield (3m novich, heavy). Probably needs him Welsh Harvest: Half-brother to Hermee Harvest but shows none of his relatives abil-ity over lences. Besten a distance on reappearance and pulsed up latest Majadou: Winner once in three Autaul hundle starts. Always behind on chase debut there in May but interesting prospect from powerful Pipe yard. One to note in beiting VERDICT: It seems likely that only one of his occasional jumping errors can call a half to KADOU NONANTAIS' winning sequence. He looked is class act at Ling-field, giving weight to much more experienced rivals. Song Of The Sword is the form pick among his rivals, but Lord Noelle and Majadou are two particularly interesting new recruits to lencing.

1.00 MILES GOSLING HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £15,000 added 4m 1f Penalty Value £10,211

- 9 declared
Mermum weight: 10st True handicap weights: Miss Distan 9st 7tb, Ley it Off 8st 4tb, Golden Drum 8st 1tb, Daddy Dancer 7st 12tb.

BETTIRES: 7-2 Flaked Oats, 4-1 Baronet, 9-2 Saven Towers, 5-1 Druki's Brook, 11-2 Him Of Praise, 6-1 Miss Distan. 12-1 Golden Drum, 20-1 Ley if Off, 25 Deddy Dancer 1998. Kendal Cavalier 8 9 12 D Salter (5) 7-1 (6 R Milliman) 10 ran FORM GUIDE

Seven Toware: Progressive chaser two seasons ago and impressive when big Eve-spray at Ayr in November. Never going well tast two starts and tailed off behind Tarriarindo latiest. Stays well and chance at best but one to be wary of Boronet: Scottish Nabonal winner from 66 lower. Needed run when 5 lengths 3rd to Thermal Warrior on Sandown comeback (3m5f hcap ch. good). Capable of bold show, but arratic jumper who fell in this race last year and is best on sound surface

Him Of Praise: Four-time winner last term, including Mildmay at Sandown and proved capable of good show off this mark with 2nd to Dom Samoural at Haydock, Blinkers back on after 47 lengths 8th to Kendal Cavaller in Welsh National on Monday

back on after 47 lengths 8th to Kendal Cavaller in Welsh National on Monday Flaked Cate: Lightly-raced and yet to win outside Fontwell. Staying on when 4 length 3rd of 10 to Royal Barge at Exeter (3m 2f Incap ch, soft) and open to improvement Drudf's Brook: Has not progressed from Haydock win over Martall Boy last February from 7th lower and btn 17 lengths by River Losse at Lingfield (3m hoap ch, soft) latest. Slow and both wins on sound surface Milse Diskin: Out-and-out stayer. Beat Deady Dancer at Punchestown (3m1f hoap ch, heavy) in April and good 2nd under penalty over same C/D 2 days tater, Promising return at Plumpton and by no means out of it, although 5th out of handicap Lay If Offit Martest Rasen 3m 1f winner in November but looks out of his depth here from 24th out of handicap after latest 16 lengths 3rd to Rightsaudfred at Follestone Golden Drum: Maintained upward curve with his win over Mister Trick at Bangor (4m 1f heap ch, good to soft) but remote prospect from 27th out of handicap Daddy Dancer: Ex-Irish maiden chase. Held by Miss Diskin on Punchestown nunning last term and will be hard pressed to make a mark from 30b out of handicap VERDICT: With Seven Towers under a cloud and the ground likely to be against the form pick, Baronet, this could be between the blinkered-again Him Of Praise and fightly-raced FLAKED OATS. This new trip looks ideal for Paul Nicholle's lightly

and all myreseer numerous over the mean explaint speak or a big weight at Exeter and reaced ex-pointer, who put up an excellent display-under a big weight at Exeter and may have more scope for improvement then Ham Of Praiss, whose Chepstow effort in severe conditions on Monday could have left a mark 1.35 STEEL PLATE TRIAL HURDLE (CLASS C) C4 £6,500 added 4YO 2m 1f Penalty Value £4,691

yellow, pumbe apots, yellow cap F421 SADLER'S SECRET (18) (D) (A S Helassa) M Pipe 11 4..... orange, office green stars on body and cap CLASSIC INIFACT (F81) (J M Brown & M Blackburn) P Murphy 11 0M A Fitagerald HENRY HEALD (F130) (WE Sturt) JOID 11 0... grey, scalet hooped elemes and cap 822 SHERGANZAR (35) (Antony Schrobou) 0 Sherwood 11 0 oange, dash blue diamond, dash blue son, dange diamonde 2322 WAYE ROCK (20) (The Earl Cadogan) Miss H Kinght 11 0

marcon, yellow chevron, hooped cap 13.3 MOTHERS HELP (20) (Bertshire Commercial Components) D Williams 10 12.....S Durack

FORM GUIDE

POHM GUIDE

Dangerus Precedent: Good effort to give 14b and 7-length beating to subsequent scorer Roborant at Fortiwel (2m 2f nov hole, heavy), improving and the one to beet Sadler's Secret: Easy task at Plumpton latest, but only 8lb better with Dangerus Precedent for 34 lengths on earlier Ascot running and plently to find lassic largeact: Useful middle-distance handicapper on Rat for Peter Chapple-Hyern, coring at Newbury. Goes well on soft and interesting newcomer for shrewd yard. learly Heald: Brighton 71 maiden winner on Rat for Peter Makin. One to note in the

market on disbut for new yard. Unproven on easy surface Noble Demand: Rumang consistently in ordinary company. Looks held by Dangerus Precedent on latest 6 lengths 3rd of 10 to Roborant at Lingfield (2m nov hole, heavy). Saddlers' Roe: Narrowly beaten in weak Worcester novice on debut but looked re-luctant and lailed to progress when odd-on 5th of 12 to Another Beveled at Hunt-

luctant and failed to progress when odd-on 5th of 12 to Another Seveled at Hunt-ingdon (2m nov hide, good to firm) latest and is difficult to lancy Sherganzan: Possibly unlucky when bin 1/2 length by Tralude at Newbury (2m nov hide, good) and bright chance at weights with Dangenis Precedent through Outh about, Improving and should go closs Wave Rock: Improved effort when bin 18 lengths by Hors La Loi 8 at Lingfield (2m hide, soft), after mistake at second last, Improving and one to consider Zapatreado: Limited abidity in two early-seapons outlings and well held by Wave Rock on 7th of 12 to Mass Orphan at Kernpton Zavanti Croles expressed and Bark in structure on serience of latest 4th enotities 6th

Zuryef: Looks exposed and Bally to struggle on evidence of latest 40 lengths 6th of 10 to Roborant at Lingfield (2m nov hole, heavy)
Mothers Help: Early-season Windsor winner from Wave Rock, but 6 lengths behind
that horse at Lingfield last time and is now 4to worse off. Possibly needs a longer

VERDICT: DANGERUS PRECEDENT is improving with every outing, and it was warfulful and analysis of the called a reproving with every along, and it was a useful effort to beat Roborant at Fontwell it could take a smart one to half his a querice. Wave Rock, who battled on well after a late mistake at Lingfield, looks th biggest threat with the stiffer course in his favour, but Shergantan also command respect and Classic impact would be interesting if the market signals were right.

the Tripleprint here last time won over a slighter shorter 3m7f here in November. 2.10 TOTE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) \$15,000 C4 added 2m 5f 110yds Penalty Value £10,124 338/35 CASTLE SWIEEP (13) (Lord Vestey) D Nicholson 8 120

1-14 LADY REBECCA (20) (CD) (Commission of the cape of the part of the part of the cape of the part of the part of the cape of the part of

1996: Princelul 7 10 0 R Farrant 6-5 fav (Mrs J Pitman) 6 ran FORM GUIDE

Castle Sweep: Classy handicapper, third in the Coral Cup here in 1997, Missed last season, but showed he retains his ability when 3rd at Ascot in November, Has been dropped 7th, but still 13th higher than his last whining mark.

Lathy Rebecca: Most consistent mare, found 2m too short when 4th at Newbury, but won here (2m4t, good) next time. Stiffest task to date off a 5th higher mark and 20th

higher than winning over course and distance in November.

Alphre Parither: Stays 3m and just assted home over that trip at Bengor (g/s) lest time. Has been raised 8th sance withring at Newcastle (3m) last month and drop back in trip should not be too much of a disadvantage on this lesting course. in trip should not be too much of a disadvantage on this testing course Romancer: Smart form two seasons ago when 2nd in the Tote Gold Trophy and Coun-ty Hurdie. Disappointed over fences last season, has not run for 13 months and tries

Papo (Anarisana: Much improved for new stable and possibly a little unlucky not to complete a five-timer at Wincardon (2m6), soft) on Boxing Day when he hit the last. In his toughest contest so far, but not out of it with Robert Widger claiming 50b VERDICT: A top class line-up in which it is hard to eliminate any of the runners. Romaneer is well handicapped on his old form, but LADY REBECCA, three times a winner at Cheltenham, could not have been more impressive than when slamming Zafarabad by 12 lengths here last month and can continue to defy tire handicapper.

2.45 UNICOIN HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) 225,000 added 2m 5t Penalty Value £17,506 V P-4FOO SENOR EL BETRUTTI (21) (CO) (Gerard Nock) Mrs S Nock 10 11 10...... N Williamson B purple, emested green coats of lumaine, emested green cap
purple, emested green coats of lumaine, emested green cap
purple, emested green coats of lumaine, emested green cap
purple, emested green coats of lumaine, emested green cap
and the system of the 2-1123 MR STRONG GALE (20) (10) (T Chappel, R Eddy) P Nichols 8 10 7 _______) Tizzard B dark green, black sept. dark green stewes, red armises, black and red check cap 1-5221 ERRESPRAY (6) (I) (Trevor Hormings) Mrs S Smith 8 10 7 (5e) ______ S Durack

Marinum weight. 10st. Time handicap weights: Go Universal Stat 13st.

BETTENC: 7-2 Capennara; 4-1 Northern Startight, 9-2 Exespray, 6-1 Pete The Person, 13-2 Mr Strong Gale, 10-1 Pine Thyne, Kornecker King, Mathier, 24-1 Jahrib, 25-1 others

1998. Pete The Person 8 10 0 M A Fitzgerald 3-1 lav (J Uot) 6 ran

FORM GUIDE Senor El Betrutti: Very smart handicapper at best, though out of sorts this season. Has been dropped 8to and blinkered for the first time, but one to be wary of until

π Starlight: Much improved and attempts to tollow up his all-the-way returnment seatingmic Much improved and entempts to trook by the glatine-way suc-cess in the Tripleprint Gold Cup over course and distance (good) less month off 7th higher mark. Meets Mr Strong Gale (3rd) on 8th worse terms for 71/4 lengths -Mehler: Successful here and at Punchestown less season, but has yet to recapture that form, though finished 6th in the Hennessy and has been dropped 5th Pete The Parson: Won this last season off a 4th lower merk. Made mistales on his return to fences at Newbury (2m1f, soft) in November and is up egainst some expe-

nences reincoappers.

Pline Thysic: Pulled up in the Hermassy is November, but finished 2nd in the Whit-breed in April and was also 5th to Senor El Betrutti in the Tripleprint here last season, is still 710 higher than his last withing mark.

Mr Strong Gale: Lost his place after a mistake 3 out when 3rd to Northern Starbight here last month. Has an 8to pull and can brish much closer with better jumping

Elreapray: Improved towards the end of last season in novice chases, but is finding things harder in handcaps. Stayed on after being outpaced 5 out to win at Wetherby on Bosing Day and more to do with a 5lb penalty

15-53 PADARA (27) D Nicholson 7 11 5 . . 6P-CU THE HAPPY MONARCH (17) Mrs J Pigron 7 # 5 _ __D Leahy - 5 dadered -

SETTING: 1-2 Padara, 9-2 Giffmar. 5-1 Chack The Deck, 5-1 The Heppy Monarch, 25-1 Bottleward Bay FORM VERDICT

-COPPO PRONTIER FLIGHT (USA) (24) (D) P Hast 9 TO 0. T SALLE (S)

 5 declared -Ashimum weight: 10st. Yous handicap weight. Fortiane Febres 3st 13fb. BETTING: evens Bessie Growns, 5-2 Durk Kostrel, 3-1 Shoofs, 14-1 Fron-tier Flight, Fortialne Febres

There is always a danger in backing a horse who has run well first time out after a break, and then reappears quickly, BESSIE fits that bill, but she was not given a hard time when her thence had gone at Huntingdon on Boxong Day and a taken to account for some generally out-of-sorts rivals

Caperawray: Progressive handicapper, who has been raised 20th this season following a hat-linck. Acts on any going and has won twice here over 2m44. Takes a step up in class, but should run his usual game race

Case, out should have see game rate of the foliation of the distance when a hid 2nd to Barnageera Boy at Haydock (2m) last month. Hard to tancy on that form Jathib: Promising front-running novice in 1996-7, but lightly raced since and first run for Martin Pipe. Stayed 3m over hurdes, but has not run since February. Go Universal: Won 5 consecutive chases in 1995-8 (fast ground) for Charlie Brooks and ightly raced since is 12b lower than when 4th to Dublin Piyer over course and detarms in 1997, but nonhably reach the best of the second of the property of distance in 1997, but probably past his best

VERDICT: Northern Startight made all under 10st 11b m the Tripleorint here last month and will again prove hard to peg back, even though he has been raised 7b. He is on the small side to concede weight and CAPEMWRAY, who has improved leaps and bounds in the last two seasons, could prove the value. This is his ideal trip and the handicapper may not have caught up with him yet.

3.20 SPORTING INDEX SELECT CROSS-COUNTRY C4 FO-12R COURT MELODY (21) (D) (Mick Coburn) P Nicholis 11 11 11... mauve and yellow diamonds, mauve sieeves, yellow cap 805-44 BANJO (FR) (28) (C) (D) (Damen C Mercer) D Nichdson 9 11 8 ... Disch, while houps, black seleves, while grots
1-22P2 CAVALERO (30) (CD) (BF) (H J Mannes) H Mannes 10 11 8...
dark blue, red cap, green spots
5P-361 UNDEN'S LOTTO (49) (C) (0) (M Balley) A J Marin (6) 10 11 8. ngisi bise and yellow chewons, and cap
3322-4 FAMFONI (FR) (131) (The Propelers Partnership) K Balley 6 10 7 ...
Byth bise, dank bise braces, while sleeved
53504 GALE AHEAD (22) (D) (Ns T Phichard) D Philiphard 9 10 7
grey, mission chewons and amiliate, quariered cap

- 6 declared --BETTING: 7-4 Banjo, 5-2 Linden's Lotto, 3-1 Court Melody, 13-2 Cavalero, 12-1 Famioni, 38-1 Gale

1998: McGregor Thige Third 12 17 B & Harding 6-4 jt fav (G Richards) 6 ran FORM GUIDE

Court Metody: Fair handicapper on his day, but rejuctent to race and tailed off when refused at the 6th here last month. Also made mistakes at Ascot before that Banijo: Usually needs plenty of driving along and may have found the trip (3m5f) too far at Sandown lest time. Capable of winning this Cavalero: Point-to-point and hunter-chase warrer, so this course should hold no sur-prises. Normally a safe jumper, but fell at Amiree in November and is finding it hard-

er in Handicaps Linden's Lotto: Won a similar event here (3m7f) in November when he was left in the lead when McGregor The Third took the wrong course. Expenence of this unique

lay-out will give him an advantage Faratoni: Placed twice from 3 runs over fences in the French provinces at distances up to 2m51 Unknown quantity, but unlikely to be good enough Gale Ahead: Won twice over hurdles last season when trained by George Moore and has also been successful 3 times over fences. Poor form for new connections

this season and has been tried in Hinkers VERDICT: Benjo has not really fulfilled his promise, though should go close as he would be giving weight to the others in a handicap with the exception of Court Melody. However, LINDEN'S LOTTO mastered this cross-country course in November when he won by five lengths from the useful Fiftysevenchannels and looks more reliable.

3.55 UNICOIN HOMES SPA HURDLE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £6,775

- 4 declared -BETTING: 13-8 Splendid Thyne, 11-4 Silver Wedge, 3-1 Lord Jun, 7-2 Ocean Hawk, 1998 Mighty Moss 7 11 4 Mr F Husby 11-4 fav (O Nicholson) 5 ran FORM GUIDE

Lord Jim: Unbeaten in three movice hurdles last season and 3rd in the Queen Alexandra at Royal Ascot in June. Has plenty to do according to the official ratings Ocean Hamic Left a distant 3rd (birn 30% lengths) to Princeful in the Long Walk at Ascot last month after Mr Percy tell, Beaten 4 lene 3rd to Princeful in the Stayer's Hurdle in March and is 12th worse off Silver Wedge: Long Walk winner in 1995. Put up a promising effort on his first outing since April, 1996 when 8th to Mister Morose at Chepstow in November and good

chance if he has retained his ability Splendid Thyne: Pulled up in Mister Morosets race at Chepstow in November, but stable nave made a very slow start. Runner-up to Princeful in last season's Stayers' Hurdle and will be hard to best if repeating that form VERDICT: Attrough SPLENDID THYNE was pulled up on his reappearance at

Chepstow his trainer reported that the golding is extremely difficult to get fit first time. Splendid Thyrne needed his first run last season and then went on to win his next

four races before finishing second to Princeful in the Stayers' Hurdle here in March.

LEICESTER

12.45 Bora Bora 1.15 Catherine's Way 1.50 Stretching 2.20 Shanavogh 2.50 Check The Deck 3.25 Bessie Browne

INSPECTION: 7,30gm GOING: Chases - Heavy, Hurdles Good to Soft. Bright-hand, undulating course, Run-in of 250yds.

Bright-hand, undulating course, Run-in of 250yds.

Course is 2m SE of city off A6, Lencester station (London, St. Pancras - Sheffield Intel) 2m, ADMISSION: Club Cts; Tattersalls Ct (CARS £6). Picritic car park £25 admits car and four occupants. Free racecards. CAR PARK: Free.

PART PAR FACETOR. CAN PARTY FISH.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 19-75 (25.3%), N Henderson
10-32 (31.3%), D Micholson 10-50 (20%), Mars J Parman 9-44 (20.5%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 16-55 (28.1%), A Maguire
12-60 (20%), M A Ficperaid 11-50 (22%), J Osborne 7-37 (18.9%).

FAVOURITES: (22-269 (34.2%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Boulevard Bey (2.50).

12.45 HUMBERSTONE NOVICE HURDLE (D) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

FORM VERDICT Happy Hussar and Brushfire both showed enough in their bumper to suggest they can be fair novices, but are passed over in favour of BORA BORA, whose stamina is assured, and

who has already shown a liking for soft ground 1.15 NEW YEAR NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m 1f

- 5 declared -BETTING: 7-4 Hang'om Out To Dry. 2-1 Cetherine's Way, 6-1 Merry Shot, 10-1 Short Structu. The Lady Scores FORM VERDICT Catherine's Way has to be feared, but HANG'EM OUT TO DRY is preferred. He has shown enough in two runs since his return to suggest there are races to be found with imm

1.50 PARSLEY SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) 22,500 added 2m

FORM VERDICT ROUND ROSSN, just southed off by Marsh Marigold here in November, may be worth another chance in this weak con-test. Stretching is the obvious danger on his Ludiow second

2,20 WIGSTON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £10,000 added 2m 4f 110yds PASS STRINGS LOTH LES (LD) INCOMENT IN EACH RESIDENCE IN FOREST IN THE PROPERTY IN THE PROPERT

Minimum weight: 10st. True hendicap weight: Catadine 8st 10th. SETTING: 94 Shining Light, 5-2 Sierra Bay, 11-4 Shanavogh, 5-1 Deniches, 10-1 Citadino

FORM VERDIÇT Sierra Bay had 11f to spare over Shining Light at Huming-don in November, but the Nicholson horse now meets that rival on 18to better terms and must have a fair chance of turning the tables. However, he does not inspire much confidence and, while Shanavogh's claims are obvious, he jumping at Huntingdon was not all that fluent it might just pay to take a chance France and could go in at a nice price

2.50 FORD MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds S attraction II. C If 8 receden 9 and 1911 VAS CIRAVE SUITE TERMS A-44P CHECK THE DECK (28) C Marm 8 11 5 _____ J Mages

GIII-mar, in receipt of the handy 5-y-o allowance, looks the main threat to PADARA, who was third in a fair contest at Wother-

by last month and is a nice lang-term of 3.25 GLEBE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

FORM VERDICT

Sharpical sharpened for Newbury return

SHARPICAL IS to be primed for bury in February, the race he to put his name into contention. until injury intervened, for the Champion Hurdle.

Nicky Henderson's charge. who has not raced since that Newbury success, will have his seasonal reappearance delayed until Haydock this month and will not attempt to atone for last season's unlucky defeat in the Ladbroke Hurdle when he made a bad mistake at the final flight of hurdles.

"The plan is to get him spotthe Tote Gold Trophy at New- on for the Tote Gold Trophy," Henderson said, "with, hopewon so impressively last year fully, one run beforehand, probably at Haydock."

Sharpical's stable-companion Barna Boy has also been ruled out of the Ladbroke and will be trained for the County Hurdle at Cheltenham - a race

he won in 1997. The weather is threatening today's card at Leicester and tomorrow's Ayr meeting. Leicester where there has been heavy rain, will be inspected at 7.30am and Ayr at 8.30am today.

CATTERICK

12.50 Meldrum Park 1.20 Helenes Hili

1.55 Tom's River 2.25 Soldler Mak

GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places).

Left-hand course, unclusing and sherp. Not suitable for the long-striding horse. Run-in 240yds.

E Course is NW of thom on A638. Darlington station 14m - bus service to course. ADMISSION: Club E12; Tattersals 28: Course 2250 (under 16s free into all enclosures). CAR PARK: Reserved area 52, immainder the.

22.50 (Linder Tes these into all enclosures); CAR PARKE Heserved area £2, remainder thes.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

ELEADING THAINERS: Mirs M Flaveley 23-12 (225%), M Hammond 5-12 (MM), Mirs S Smith 13-62 (MM), G M Moore 11-59 (59%),

ELEADING JOCKEYS: P Niven 28-67 (295%), R Gentity 14-76 (184%), A S Smith 13-63 (14%), B Storey 13-144 (9%),

EFAVOURITES: 121-340 (155%),

ELINICERED FIRST TIME: Serespide (Meored, 1250); Bold Legacy (Moored, 120), King's Husser (Meored, 120), Jago (120), Deeperate Days (155).

12.50 MOTHER GOOSE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 3f

FORM VERDICT

Pursalen Aspect is progressing and, despite a double penalty, is expected to give the form pick, MAJOR SPONSOR, most to do. The latter found the concession of 7b to Crazy Horse beyond him in testing conditions at Ayr, but time may show that was a useful performance.

1.20 CINDERELLA SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) 52,000 added 4YO 2m

FORM VERDICT

I'M TEF should be forgiven his faiture on heavy ground over an extended 2m11 at Market Rasen and is better judged on his placeting debut effort in less demending conditions over course and distance

1.55 ROBINSON CRUSOE MAIDEN CHASE

D255-P BARRISTERS BOY (45) R Woodhouse 9 11 5 _____ S Taylor
PSSP0 CHIEF CHEPPE (29) W Kemp 6 11 5 _____ D Bentley B
08-06 DESPERATE DAYS (15) F Kirby 10 11 5 _____ J Supple 8
10644 FORREST TRIBE (263) M Hartmond 6 17 5 .____ B Heeding

LINGFIELD

HYPERION 1.05 Sammy's Shuffle 1.30 Daunted 2.05

Such Boldness 2.40 Jubilee Scholar 3.15 Dream On Me 3.45 Anokato

Equitrack surface; infr-hand, sharp chuckeup of general by E Course is SE of fown on B2028. Lingfield station (served by London, Victoria) adoptins course. ADMISSION: Club 215, Family Enclosure St0. CAR PARIX: Club 23; remeinter free. FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

STALLS: Inside Broopt Im - outside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low.

Experience surface; left-hand, sharp undusting course.

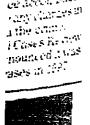
GOING: Standard

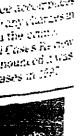
(CLASS E) £4,000 added 3m 1f 110yds

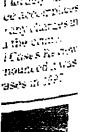
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FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

If LEADING TRAINERS: G. L. Moore 93-724 (12.8%), M. Johnston 55-311 (17.7%), R. Hampen 52-413 (12.6%), Lord Huntingdon 50-247 (21.2%).

If LEADING JOCKEYS: J. Weever 83-397 (20.8%), A. Chark 78-675 (17.7%), L. Detton 77-334 (23.1%), R. Cochrane 69-400 (17.5%).

If FAVOURITES: 685-2051 (33.4%).

If LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: An Extensive Do (1.80), Thistoryand (2.15), Perchancer (3.15), Pageboy (3.45) and John Bowdler Hussic (3.45) travel 270 miles, BUINKERED FIRST TIME; None. 1.05 HANGOVER HANDICAP (CLASS F) 52,750 added 1m 4f

FORM VERDICT

Preference for SAMMY'S SHEFFLE must be muted with a doubt over the trip, though he has the look of a well-hand-capped individual having stolen in late to land his first course

1.30 NEW YEAR CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £3,500 added 3YO 1m

SETTING: 5-4 Decembed, 7-2 Pendiock Inspection, 8-1 An Executive Do, it-mailtappening, 14-1 Gold Coast, Carryouhearms, 16-1 King Flyes, 25-1

FORM VERDICT

Although he will not be much of a price, this looks best left to DAUNTED, who is a dual where over this course and detained. He was only bestion a short-head before being awarded the race here last time and should have too many guns for Pad-

2.05 AULD LANG SYNE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,250 added 1m 2f

1 80062- HALF TOLE (13) P Windred 5 8 0 N Day 3
2 34432- SUCH BOLUNESS (21) Mass G Kelemay 5 9 0 P Fredericks (7) 6
3 Q63- PRIBMORDIAL (FR) (11) S Dow 4 5 12 P Doe (5) 9

SLICCESS ISSE time

FORM VERDICT Not an easy race to predict with no obvious pacemaker among the six runners. Manightano, who pulled hard when winning at hispector, may not be one about which to take a short price, and preference is for COUNTRY ORCHID FORM VERDICT Question merks about the form and jumping of some of these but although DAMZA has not achieved a great deal, he is markedly improving and likes the track 00/00B FIRST GOLD (16) A Smith 10 10 0 FORM VERDICT SQUANDAMANIA showed improved form at Doncaster last time and there is hope for more, with the Skely good early

~ 16 deciared — BETTIN(2:3-1 Youn's River, 7-2 Joridi Le Forige, 5-1 Monsieur Carroy, 7-1 Format Tribe, Sister Gale, 8-1 Up And Over, 14-1 Rye Rura, 16-1 The Other FORM VERDICT Joridi Le Forige would have outstanding claims if his tame effort lest Saturday could be forgiven, but TOM'S RIVER may prove more reliable. He has given the impression in the past that he will be well suited by a test of stamina such as this. Monuteur Dercy can also get into the money JACK AND THE BEANSTALK H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m - 6 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Country Orchid, 11-4 Marigilano, 4-1 Combriso Maestro, 9-2 Solgiar Mair, 8-1 Alpina Hidaway, 10-1 Kintavi 2.55 HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSON H'CAP CHASE (CLASS D) £7,000 added 2m 3.30 PETER PIPER NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) \$2,500 added 2m

FORM VERDICT SPIRIT LEVEL is the only runner with a decent run lest time. One carnot be confident about her chances of completing the double, however, because Pipe's Breteche is only a 4yo and would not require much improvement to wi 1.40 THURLESTONE HOTEL NOVICE CHASE (E) £4,000 added 2m 7f 110yds Country, 25-1 others n appeal is the ex-pointer Pens

Racing at grass-roots level: The opening event at Fontwell yesterday, the Auld Lang Syne Novices' Hurdle, is a race that Timmy Murphy will not want brought to mind as he crashes to earth on the second-favourite, Quetal, who was unhurt by the fall. The race went to Jamie Goldstein on Jim Jam Joey

Julian Herbert/Allsport

EXETER

HYPERION

12,40 Norski Lad 1.10 Sandante 1.40 Holdim-

close 2.10 Hold Your Ranks 2.40 Dovetto

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 64-263 (243%), Miss H Knight
33-130 (25.4%), P Hobbs 29-139 (209%), R Frost 20-164 (12.2%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: R Durwroody 36-114 (316%), A P McCoy
28-151 (185%), J Osborne 18-68 (26.5%), C Meude 17-65 (17.9%).

FAVOURITES: 191-505 (37.9%).

BLINKENED FIRST TIME Breteche (vscred, 10), Secon Duke (20).

12.40 HAPPY NEW YEAR HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,900 added 4YO 2m 1f 110yds

- 10 declared -BETTING: 6-4 Norski Lad, 9-2 Dashing Chief, 5-1 Doublet, 6-1 Trever-rick, 8-1 Another Beveled, Leftsh, 14-1 Nutt D'Or, 25-1 others

FORM VERDICT

It will be a disappointment if NORSIG LAD tails to make a wiming start for his new stable, attrough fellow hurding debutents Dashting Chief (in particular), Doublet and Treverrick

1.10 KENNFORD SELLING H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,000 added 2m 1f 110yds

3.10 KENTFORD TINA (nap) 3.40 Selberry

GOING: Heavy (Soft in places).

There should be a good strong pace here and HANDY LASS is one who is fliely to benefit. Blue Blazer remains interesting but will no doubt do better on a laster surface. Tuscany Highway is another to keep an eye on 3.40 RACING CHANNEL NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (F) 52,300 2m 1f 110yds FORM VERDICT BETTBIG: 1-2 Selberry, 7-1 Oriental Style, 10-1 Lusco 12-1 Another Chancer, 14-1 Sendoran, Native Tange Holdingloss is very much the one to best on his novice chase form, but ALBERMARLE made a good start to his chasing career lest season and looked the soft to do a good deal better prior to his recent neappearance when he was reported to have mucus in his lungs. The only other runner to make

SELBERRY is almost the only one of these with solid form credentials. Oriental Style may not be hearly enough to make 4535- SHABAASH (37) P Howing 8 6 FORM VERDICT

— 9 declared — BETTING: 5-4 Such Boldoess, 4-1 Thekryadi, 6-1 Primordial, Such Bold-ness 7-1 Half Tide, 8-1 in Good Order, 12-1 Blue Deven, 16-1 Santarens, The step up to 7/ could be ideal for SHABAASH, who has been sticking on stoutly at the end of his last two runs over 6f. He was far from diagraced in a race that worked out well on his AW debut here last time and is taken to best Dream On the AW debut here last time and is taken to best Dream. FORM VERDICT SUCH BOLDNESS, from the in-form Gay Kelleway yard, faces a straightforward opportunity of getting off the mark here. His second to Kings Arrow is the best form on show here. Keep an eye on Thekryasti, from Merk Johnston's Middlehem yard

2.40 FIRST FOOTING CLASSIFIED STAKES (CLASS F) £2,750 added 1m 2f

step back in distance

FORM VERDICT An open contest but preference is for KINGS ARROW, who tooks to be an improving sort on this surface. The form of his win here is working out well and he is taken to best Critical

3.15 WELCOME TO 1999 HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,250 added 3YO 7f

BETTING: 2-1 Shabasah, 9-4 Dream On Me, 7-2 Miles Take, 6-1 Redox

FORM VERDICT

2.10 THURLESTONE HOTEL HANDICAP CHASE (E) £4,000 added 2m 71 110yds

FORM VERDICT

A weak handicep, with Dancattilyoudrop and Sexon Duke the leading contenders but neither of them fluent jumpers. Several of the others can be given a chance of sorts, and GLACIAL KING is selected to cause an upset. His form credentiels are not solid, but this former kish point winner has

only just turned seven and is still worth the benefit of the doubt

2.40 DEVON AIR AMBULANCE NOVICE

- 8 declared -Maximum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Lyphard's Fable 9st 13tb, Credo

cory set 42. BETTING: 5-4 Native Filing, 9-2 Mr Poppleton, 5-1 Dovetio, 7-1 Carwig-na Boy, Lyphard's Feble, 10-1 Go Go Henry, 20-1 Sgt Childcraft, Credo

FORM VERDICT Without having seen Dovetto over fences before, it is hard to look beyond NATIVE FILING who did little wrong when whiting a similar event at Ludiow last month. Mir Poppleton

3.10 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 3f 110yds

num weight: 10st, True handicap weights: Geralemen Jim 9st 10lb, Ettu Abburn Weger: New Price States (1927).
BETTING: 2-1 Handy Lasa, 4-1 Blue Bitzer; 9-2 Tuscuny Highway, 5-1 Kentiord Time, 8-1 Khelidi, 10-1 Survise Special, 14-1 Elitelaal, Gentio-

FORM VERDICT

is the one to best on last season's form

3.45 HAPPY NEW YEAR HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,500 added 6f

Minimum weight: 7st 10to. True hyndicap weights: Justinianus 7st 4tb, Dano ng Jack / 3 40. BETTING 44 Pageboy, 5-1 Comeousothelog, 11-2 Ancisato, 6-1 Facile Tigra, 8-1 John Bowelor Music, Acid Test, 10-1 Out Like Megic, Dancing Jack, 12-1

...

FORM VERDICT PAGEBOY, who has won first time out at Lingfield for the last four years (including time wins in this race), gets the vote here. Patrick Hasterin's 10-year-old is well handicapped on the best of his form here and has a good draw in stall three. He is taken to best Commoutatherog, who should go well if handling this **PLUMPTON**

HYPERION 12.50 Newby End 1.25 Hawailan Youth 2.00 Cool Performance 2.35 Royal Predica 3.05 Brook Bee 3.35 Nessun Doro

aronnes mastry. Ill Left-hand, undulating course with sharp bends. Tricky downhill fence in back straight. Ill Course is off AZ75 S of Haywards Heath, Station adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members £14; Tattorsalle £9 (OAPs £8); Silver Ring £8 (OAPs £4); CAR PARK: Mem-

PRIST TEE.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: 11 Pipe 28-56 (50%), J Jenkins 13-73 (17.8%), R Rowe 12-

IN LEADING (MAINEAS): IN PRIE 20-00 (DUNE), a JAMBONE 13-73 (MANE), IN HOWER 12-85 (MANE). IN NOVINE 11-26 (A2374).

B) LEADING JOCKEYS: A PMCOV 38-108 (352%), M A Fitzgerald 15-73 (205%). D
O'Sullivan 15-82 (183%). A Magnite 14-85 (215%).

B) FAVOURITES: 186-455 (408%).

B) LINKSRED FIRST TIME: Leftrim Cottage (305).

12.50 DI MARCO MORNING AFTER 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 4f DEC PHAR LESS HASSLE (30) (CD) T McGovern 7 C4—
PROF PHAR LESS HASSLE (30) (CD) T McGovern 7 C4—
PROF PALLYSOLLEN (822) M Prop 7 T1 6.

0 GILL'S GALE (20) R Rowe 7 T1 8.

LE1-3 GREYTON (14) R Rows 6 T1 6.

0 CNEFORTHEFROG (24) C Egyston 6 T1 6.

0 CNEFORTHEFROG (24) C Egyston 6 T1 6.

40 POLINSLEY MILL (20) J Giford 6 T1 6.

- 8 declared
ETTING: 7-4 Newby End. 9-4 Piez Less Hassle, 6-1 Greyto D Fort (3)

BETTING: 7-4 Naviby End. 9-4 Phar Less Hassie, 6-1 Greyton, 6-1 Pos ollen, Our Men Film, 16-1 Gill's Gale, 20-1 Onstortbeho FORM VERDICT

PHAR LESS HASSLE has won on very soft ground here so today's going should not be a problem. If it is not, he has the form to defy his double penalty, possibly at the main expense of Newby End, who may just prefer a stiffer track 1.25 TINTO HILL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added

___P. Factorit – + cecescu – Roimum weight: 10st, True handicsp weight; hufen Run Set 10th. SETTING: 8-4 Hannillan Yoldh, Ragemull, 4-1 Regal Aura, 7-1 Indian Run

FORM VERDICT HAWAIIAN YOUTH and in-form Ragamust stand out here, but splitting the two is not easy. Hawaiian Youth has generally been competing in slightly more competitive races and goes well in heavy ground, so he is narrowly preferred.

2.00 SOUTHERN FM RESOLUTION HURDLE (CLASS C) 27,500 added 4YO 2m 4f 1 COOL PERFORMANCE (29) Mrs D Haine 11 4 140 LORD OF LOVE (13) D Williams 11 4 3 GHOST PATH (18) R C'SUINER 10 8 U TVORY CHARM (36) L A Dace 10 9 - 4 declared -BETTING: 4-7 Cool Performance, 3-1 Lord Of Love, 11-2 Ghost Path, 12-1 Ivory Charm

FORM VERDICT COOL PERFORMANCE has been found a good opening in which to supplement his Leicester debut gains and ought to collect, with fellow winner Lord Of Love the only realising danger

2.35 ELLIS AND PARTNERS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 29-3F KELLY MAC (18) (C) (D) D O'Bren 9 11 4... 38POF MOTLEY (530) Miles K George 9 11 4... 5465- OLD ARCHIVES (573) (D) L Wells 10 11 4... 434472 ROYAL PREDICA (FR) (28) M Pro 5 10 8... - 4 declared -SETTING: 1-2 Royal Predica, 2-1 Kelly Mac, 16-1 Mutley, Old Archiver FORM VERDICT

A straightforward task for ROYAL PREDICA on his British debut. He has week opposition to beat and is proven in heavy ground 3.05 CHAMPAGNE DELBECK HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £4,000 added 3m 1f 110yds IPP-01 SHANAGORE WARROOR (18) (C) S Melter 7 11 10. 33P33- HOLY STING (247) J De Gles 10 11 9.....

- 6 declared -BETTING: 8-4 Stranegore Warrier, 3-1 Brook Bes, 5-1 High Thyne, 11-2 Holy Sting, 8-1 River Gala, 16-1 Leitrim Cottage **FORM VERDICT**

SHANAGORE WARRIOR did well to best an unexposed horse here last trine and a striker level of performance would give him solid claims in a race in which the others have question-marks against them. Brook Bee looks the main danger 3.35 LADBROKE LAST RACE HANDICAP HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m 1f

34-211 MSSUM DORD (13) (CD) S Meitr 7 12 0...
2-60 MILLMOURT (7) (C) (EP) T McGreen 9 10 13...
0F246 ITS WALLACE (27) (C) J Pouton 6 10 7...
43-10 LIMIT THE DAMAGE (USA) (16) (CD) J Wyle 7 10 5...
5-445 DORT THE DAMAGE (USA) (16) (CD) R Hodges 9 10 3...
40-0P1 ZAFARELLI (17) (D) J Jarkins 5 10 0...
0-4624 DOCTOR BRAVIOUS (44) J Pouton 6 10 0...
7 declared -| Batchelor (5) B |--| Goldstein (5) - 7 declared -Minimum weight: 10st True handicap weight: Doctor Brazious 9st 11th. BETTING: 3-1 Zufarelli, 7-2 Limit The Damage, 4-1 Nessun Dore, 5-1 Millimount, 8-1 It's Wei-lace, Doctor Bravious, 10-1 Donktressfordinner FORM VERDICT

ZAFARELLI makes most appeal. He was back to his best when blinkered for the first time last time and has the ability to progress again on that har form. Nessur Doro is much respected, though vulnerable at the weights now, so Limit The Damage may be the main danger.

RESULTS 1.00: 1. FILS DE CRESSON (B Powel) 11-10 tar; 2. Doo-Hafficley 10-1; 3. Inde-pendent Grey 3-1. 8 rain, 12, 1. (J Adam, Gordon). Tobe: 22-20; £140, £180. £180. DF: £550. CSF: £1056.

WARWICK Going: Soft 12.50; (2m novice hurdie) 1. PREMIER GENERATION

1. PREMIER GENERATION

2. Arctic Fancy — W Marston 16-1

3. Choice Cut — R Johnson 33-1

Also ram: 3-1 Nashkapour (4th), 4-1 Ricardo, 12-1 Chippewe (5th), 25-1 Filou Du Bos, Misconduct, Shopaholic (6th), 33-1 Fil To Bust, Gernstone, Jab. 50-1 Mister River, Salford Quay, 66-1 Cartouche, Ewis, 100-1 Dancing in Rio, Isca Malden, Komesta.

19 ram. 3, 6, 3, 6, 9 (N Henderson, Lamboum), Totas: \$2.20; £150, £530, £8.70, DF: £1730, CSF: £22.47.

Tricast: £865.38. 2.30: 1. GENERAL FLIGHT (Mr C Rae) 6-1; 2. Begorrat 5-4 fav; 3. Aginor 18-1 15 ran. 11/4, 3. (Andrew Turnel, Sandrutton). Tota: 1630; £190; £180; £310; DF: £520; CSF: 3.00: 1. THE NEXT WALLZ (F Supple) 3-1; 2. Gele Force 14-1; 3. Arctic Fox 5-2 ta., 14 ran. 8. 2. (L. Lungo, Carrutherstown). Tota: £4.30; £2.40, £3.70; £1.50, DF: £4.040, £5F: £7.32; Pricast: £7.03.2 2.30: 1. FLAT TOP (C McComeck) 71-4 tav; 2. Jennie's Prospect 8-1; 3. Hitchhiker 4-1 14 ran. 1, 21, (M W Easterby, Sheriff Hutton). Tota: £3.70; £1.60, £3.20, £1.20, DF: £7.40; £5F: £7.12; £7.62s; £3.86. Placepot: £37.30, Quadipot: £2.210, Place 6: £70.53. Place 5: £23.55.

2.50: (2m handicap hurdle) 1. YOU'NG SPARTACUS_R Johnson 9-2

CATTERICK Going: Good (Good to Soft in pizces) 12.30: 1. ES GO (H Bestimen) 100-30: 2. Afferera ff-1; 3. Leurstrikuks 8-1. 14 ren. 9-4 tav Fristerne. 6, 7. (R Bestimen, Werberby). Toter 5480; £130. 12:50, £170. DF; £2160. CSF; £34.27. NR: Chevaller Errant.

Going: Soft 1.10: 1. JNM JAM JOEY (J Goldstein) 7-2; 2. Fine Attitude 10-1; 3. Jazz Dulte 40-1 10 ran, 2-1 jay Yorkshire Edition (pulled up). 5. 10. (D Gressell). Tota: £4.70; £1.70, £2.50 2640 DF: \$2050 CSF: \$3847 NR: Keen Bld EARD DF: 2205.CSF: SSRAT NF: Keen Bit.
1.40: 1. SPRINT UP (R Greene) 8-1; 2.
Mullintor 4-5 tay; 3. Memory's Muselc
12-1 9 ran. 13. %. (M Pips). Tate: £780; £230, £120, £170. DF: £660. CSF: £1443.
NF: Matheum.
2.10: 1. QUIET MOMENTS (R Farrent) 3-1
jt tay; 2. Colonel Cell 3-1 jt tay. 8 ran (2
finished). Oss. (P Murphy). Totes: £350; £270, £240. DF: £850. CSF: £1230.
2.40: 1. JUST NIP (J Obtorne) 3-1; 2.
Waleb SSR 11-2; 3. Betmore Rock 11-2. 8 Weigh S8k 11-2; 3. Beimore Rock 11-2 8 ran. 7-4 fev Fadellov (Sth). 11/h. 31/h. (Mrs L Richards). Tote; £500; £150, £210, £200. DF: £1270. CSF: £2166. Tricast: £8687. Top Note (8-1) writhdrawn not under orders; Rule 4 applies to board prices only, deduction 10p in the pound. 3.10; 1. JOHN DELIMM (Mr P Cowley) 5-2; 2. Another Course 10-1; 3. Twin Fella 4-1. 5 ran, 9-4 fav Ciprian Ousen (5th), nk, 2/5. (P Webber) Tote: £320; £140, £250. DF: £920. CSF: £2033.

1.30: 1. DORANS WAY (N Hannity) 13-2;

2. Connel's Croft 10-1: 3. Setton Blaics 11-2 14 ran. 9-4 tav Brancepath Belle, 1¹/₄, 10. (G. Moore, Middlehern). Tote: £7.30; £2.30, £2.00, £2.00 DF: £63.20 CSF: £59.08

2.00: 1. BOYZONTOOWA (R McGrath)

14-1; 2. Sousse 13-2; 3. Chemiter Bayard 10-1, 11 ran. 11-4 fay Carlele Banditols (4th). 4, 11/2. (W. Storey, Consett). Tota: £1780; 5460, £180, £320. DF: £78.10. CSF: £8727.

3.00: 1. THE NEXT WALTZ (R Supple) 3-1;

FONTWELL

Incast: £354.70

3.40: 1. TAKEAMEMO (J Osborne) 7-2; 2. Nordansk 3-1; 3. Another Night 5-2 tev. 5 ren. 10, 17, (O Sherwood). Tota: 6450; £150 £180. DF: £580, CSF: £1358, NR: Fountain

Placepot: £2790. Quadpot: £2570. Place 6: £13396. Place 5: £3693.



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MISSION IMPOSSIBLE FOR HULL P17 NEW YEAR RACECARDS



Four Hills good for Germany's high-flying young ace of 'sexy' ski jumping



Martin Schmitt, the wunderkind of German ski jumping, takes to the air at Garmisch-Partenkirchen as he prepares for today's Four Hills event. The 20-year-old won the opening event in the tournament at Oberstdorf this week and is favourite to add to his five victories this season. This is a dream - a really sexy feeling.' Schmitt said after thrilling 40,000 fans with his triumph

Enter Giles in Test of spin

IF AUSTRALIA took something of a gamble by selecting Shane Warne to play in the fifth Test BY DEREK PRINGLE starting here tomorrow, Eng- in Sydney land backed a rank outsider yesterday when they named their 12 for the match. The England line-up includes a player not even in their squad for the Test series, the Warwickshire leftarm spin bowler, Ashley Giles.

Giles, who has not played since September, arrived in Australia only last week with the limited-overs team but bas been rushed into the squad for the fifth Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground, where England are bidding to square the series.

England's captain, Alec Stewart, said the starting team for the Test would not be de-

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cided until match day but hinted Giles was likely to play because of the SCG's reputation as a spinners' wicket.

The pitch, allegedly spinning even more than usual this season, will decide everything. It may even force Stewart back into keeping wicket, though to do that it will have to promise to spin extravagantly on the second day, in which case Giles would replace Warren Hegg and join Peter Such as the second spinner. At a pinch, and should the "good of the team" demand it.

Stewart could open and keep.

THE FRIDAY CROSSWORD

be asking a lot, but we feel this fellow is up to it," Stewart said. "He has played big games for Warwickshire, he's already played one Test match and we feel, if he is asked, there won't be a problem.

"The SCG has obviously got a history of turning and we just felt with him in the country it gives us another option."

Giles played his one and only Test against South Africa this year, moving ahead of Phil Tufnell in the England pecking order, and finished with match figures of 1 for 106.

Although his only action so far has been in the one-day match against Queensland Country earlier this week, he is confident

"If he [Giles] does play, it will of performing well. "Everyone will be nervous, it's a big test for England," Giles said. Sadly, unless the pitch is

green and hard, or Stewart plays five bowlers, there will be no place for Alex Tudor. Sport is ruthless in punishing those who miss their opportunities and Tudor's withdrawal from the fourth Test with a sore hip meant that others took the wickets on a pitch where he might otherwise have made his name.

If there is anyone besides Giles and Warne for whom the Sydney Test will be an examination of character, it is Michael Atherton. The former England captain has played 88 Tests for England but could scarcely have contributed less towards England's victory in Melbourne, where he registered his

first pair in Test cricket. Unlike Warne, who has large ly had a low-key build-up to this moment, Atherton's tour has been discussed and dissected. his poor form blamed on anything from technical problems

and bachelorhood, to a bad back. In three days of cricket at the MCG, he only touched the ball twice, once to snick a catch to lan Healy (though judging by his reaction he obviously felt he did not hit it) and once with the inside edge, a nick that prevented a very plumb looking lbw from being given out.

He missed the next ball but then so might have one or two.

his off-stump flattened by a corker from Damien Fleming. When fielding he fared little better, and placed mainly at first slip he looked on as Graeme Hick pouched the flying edges.

Failure at the highest level is never tolerated for long before more pressing questions are asked, so Atherton needs a score. Mind you, talk that Sydney could be his last Test is piffie. It was only four months ago that the whole of Britain was lauding him for his undefeated match-clinching 98 against

South Africa at Trent Bridge. Mind you, there is no doubt that he is more than a little preoccupied by the slump and, quite simply, if England are to improve their chances of leaving Australia all-square, they

need him in the runs. In some ways, Melbourne

victories, in that the match situation left them few alternatives. In other words there was a single route on which to focus their what will probably be a bursen burner (a big turning wicket) will require them to shape the game, and that means big runs from both openers. If the ball is turning, scoring runs down the order could be a tricky business.

If England were gamblers, which they tend not to be, John Crawley would probably be a better bet than Mark Butcher. Australia, in a move almost unprecedented in modern Test cricket, are set to play three spinners. Both Crawley and Atherton play spin well, while Butcher is only adequate against it. Of course, to get to the spinners, both Lancastrians have to get past Glenn McGrath first, something they have

failed to do all tour. There is no doubt that Australia will come to Sydney more than a little startled by the intensity of England's cricket in the last Test. The juggernaut that threatened to overwhelm England has suddenly blown a tyre, its momentum slowed to something more manageable,

more beatable even. That is why Warne has been brought in, possibly before he is quite ready. The mind game is big in Australia and spinners will be the biggest exponents of

that, especially now that Mc-Grath has been gagged.

In four Shield games Warne has taken eight wickets and largely looked ineffectual. With wrist-spinners, what you see is not always what you get, and England's batsmen will still have "that ball" he bowled at Manchester five years ago etched into their minds. As Ian Botham constantly discovered, reputation is power.

Four years ago, England went to the last Test in Perth needing to win to square the series and were blown away. Sydney, however, is a slower beast than the WACA speedway and should better suit them, particularly if Warne does not hit his straps from the off and MacGill is not further inspired by the close competition.

More than likely, it will be a important toss to win and Stewart, having lost four on the bounce, is owed one. The fireworks in Sydney harbour on New Year's Eve are legendary. The ones two days later at the SCG, with Warne back in situ, could be even better.

COULD GE EVEN DELICET.

BNGLAND (from): M: A Atherton (Lancashire). A J Steasart (Surrey capt). M: A
Ramprahash (Middleson). G: A Mid., Noncester-Sitre). J P Crawing (Lancashire). W: K
legg (Lancashire, with, R: D B Crott (Glamcrgan). A F Gles (Warwickshire). D W
Heading (Kent). D Googh (Vorishire). A D
Makhaling (Leicestershire). P M Such (Essex). Matter (Leucitersure), P. M. Suce (Esse), M. Saylor (Cape), M. J. Slater, J. L. Langer, M. E. Waugh, S. R. Waugh, D. S. Lehmann, J. A. Healy hole), S. K. Warne, S. C. G. Maller, D. M. Wester, D. W. Plenning, C. R. Miller, G. D. McCirat, Umplress: D. B. Hair (Aus.) and R. S. Dunne (NZ). Race row mars Test, page 15

Wenger insists Vieira is victim

BY MARK BRADLEY

ARSENE WENGER has called the Charlton midfielder Neil Redfearn a "cheat" in the wake of the sending off of Patrick Vieira on Monday. The Arsenal manager believes Redfearn should be the first victim of a proposed crackdown by the Football Association

Vieira was dismissed at The Valley when Redfearn went down clutching his face after the Arsenal midfielder apparently raised an elbow. Wenger is convinced after viewing video evidence that Vieira only struck his opponent in the chest and that Redfearn should be the punished for play-acting.

"My thought is that Patrick didn't deserve to be sent off and that Neil Redfearn cheated the referee," Wenger said. "Usually I think Redfearn is an honest type but on that occasion maybe Charlton wanted so much to win the game that he was ready for everything to get [Vieira] sent off. I.don't think his behaviour was fair."

However, Redfearn insisted his conscience was clear last night. "The first time he [Vieira] swung he caught me on the cheek... it was quite painful," he said.

The FA spokesman, Steve Double, said Arsenal had yet to

appeal against the decision Nicola Berti has left Totten ham to join the Spanish First Division club Alaves, while the 37-vear-old former England international Peter Beardsley has moved to Hartlepool until the end of the season. Leeds are trying to sign the Benfica striker Nuno Gomes in a £3.2m déal.

Danson aropped

BY GUY HODGSON

PAUL DANSON, the referee who was relegated from the Premiership list at the end of the 1996-97 season, has been taken off tomorrow's FA Cup thirdround tie between Lincoln City and Sunderland at Sincil Bank after requests from both clubs.

The decision, almost unprecedented, was taken by the Football Association after an initial approach from Sunderland, whose last match under the Leicester-based referee resulted in two players being sent off in the first 20 minutes against Arsenal at Highbury in September 1996.

Lincoln, whose chairman and manager, John Reames, is a former chairman of the FA's Referees Committee, also wished to have Danson removed, after a controversial match at Northampton Town earlier this season where a mass fracas broke out.

No replacement official has been announced, but the FA has decided to act to prevent any possibility of public order being affected by Danson's involvement. David Davies, the FA's acting chief executive, said: "The views of both clubs were taken into account before that decision was made."

Sunderland's view was clouded by Danson's performance at Highbury two years ago, when Martin Scott and Paul Stewart were dismissed during a 2-0 defeat. Danson was removed from the Premiership list at the end of that season after a sequence of low marks from the referees' assessor, and has since been restricted to officiating games in the Nationwide League and below.

PREMIERSHIP PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

Due to production problems yesterday, we were unable to publish our "Premiership Footballers of the Year" feature, which was advertised on the front page of some early editions. It appears today on page 16.

Dog's life for chocolate 'cheats'

FIRST IT was Ben Johnson, BY GREG WOOD then the Tour de France, and now even the remote sporting outpost that is whippet racing finds itself in the grip of a dop-

ing scandal. Throughout the north of England, dogs are being stripped of championships and owners expelled from the sport, while bitter controversy rages in the pages of Whippet magazine. The agent in question, though, is not testosterone or even EPO, but something more in tune with whippet racing's modest means - the humble chocolate drop.

For years, a chocolate button or two was a familiar treat in the diet of a racing dog, minute quantities, caffeine.

which spends 99 per cent of its life doing nothing more competitive than playing the family pet. Whippet racing has always been a hobby, carried on quietly and almost unnoticed

since the distant days when beer was tuppence a pint and City were the best side in But that was before the

National Whippet Racing Association, the sport's governing body, decided to introduce drug-testing to its competitions, and quickly uncovered a series of positive results for theobromine and, in

metabolites of the cocoa bean, the evidence pointed to nothing more sinister than some mild cases of canine chocaeyes of the NWRA, which soon and banning their owners. Their protests that doping whippets would be pointless, since there is no betting or prize-money involved were ignored, while angry articles in Whippet accused the owners of

But now the whippets and their owners are fighting back.

They are led by Mark Pettitt, from Ilkeston, whose dog Xspell was one of the best racers the

Since both substances are sport has seen and among those to return positive tests. "They just will not listen to reason," he says. "Innocent people with pets who are just in this for holism. Not, however, in the firm are being branded drug cheats, and I will not stand by set about disqualifying dogs and see people bullied. I will see justice done, one way or another. People's lives are being ruined by this." There is talk of a court case,

perhaps even a libel action if the allegations are not retracted and the dogs and owners re-instated. The NWRA, though, shows no signs of giving way. Inorder to win justice, Pettitt may indeed be forced to cry havoc, and let slip the whippets

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cheating.

ميكذا من الاعل

ACROSS 7 Provide transport for Army team (4) 8 Nothing in flowing lute music's finicky in performance (10) 10 Upset open vessel (8) 11 Pen promissory note (6) 12 Actually North's forced into one contract (6) 13 Like addicts' ultimate habits (8) 15 In an uncalled-for man-

18 Helps one loading fourth

of leavings into skips (8) 5 20 Motor about in benign environment (6) 22 Emblem (Royal beast) Essential in time to

have big return (8)

ing more on ring (10) 26 Final explosion annihilating bomber (4) DOWN

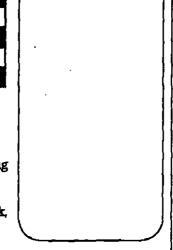
Cover up vehicle: flaking side must be protected against rust (10) Force a way through, taking Queen with Rook, Burn Sunday crumble

(8)
Fish with party in Southern Italy (6)

ern Italy (6)

Man's following . . . (8) in studies for trumpets

Right crushing front of pug's mug (4) This could be slating break leg (6) 23 A sign of boiling river in enough! (6-7) 25 Metal dealer's elaborat- 14 Characteristic of one's



salad days, perhaps (10) 17 . . . tender piece of music (8) Drag, on the box (6) 21 Joke: after performance,

FRIDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

So much of our Irish past is snagged with myth and suppressed memory, it is as if the blood and the bitterness

made truth too

can be at to be ar

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t was an election campaign which promised to be as bitter as any ever fought in Listowel. On one side Fianna Fail, the party of De Valera and militant Irish nationalism; on the other was Fine Gael, the party which descended from Michael Collins and those who had voted for the partition of Ireland in 1922. Looming over both was the shadow of the Catholic church, an institution of unrivaled power in Listowel, as in most other southern towns. Both parties paid obeisance to the church. Both doffed their caps to the priests. But if moral issues in Ireland that usually meant anything to do with sex) were not involved, the priests tended to stay in the background during elections.

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le rip raed And like every campaign since partition, the election campaign of 1951 was dominated by the politics of the civil war. The stuff which was kept under wraps most of the time came flooding out in elections: who had fought on what side, who had killed who, who had really represented the will of the Irish people.

The side ware limitering up for an orange of bile and insults.

Both sides were limbering up for an orgy of bile and insults. Enter my uncle, John B Keane, and a group of subversive associates. Sick to death of the old bitterness, they decided to take matters into their own hands and put up a non-party candidate. He was the inestimable and unimpeachable Thomas Doodle Esq. Needless to say. Tom Doodle did not exist. In reality he was a friend of my uncle's who was persuaded to disguise himself and play the part for the duration of the campaign.

At first, the main parties were inclined to ignore the Doodle campaign. The work of young lads with nothing better to do. And then came the Doodle monster meeting. Those who were present remember it as the biggest meeting in the town since Parnell came in the last century. Crowds pressed around the railway station where my uncle and his friends were waiting with a horse-drawn carriage to meet the candidate. As he emerged, a brass band began to play and somebody in the crowd fired several celebratory shots into the air.

Followed by several hundred people, Doodle and his spingloctors proceeded to the market square, where he unveiled his daring manifesto to rescue Ireland from civil war politics. The promises were intentionally hudicrous. The crowd knew this and cheered him on wildly. On jobs, he pledged to open a factory for shaving the hair off goosebearies, there was also a hint of universal free drink. Crucially, he promised "that every man would have more than the next". In the atmosphere of political clientism and unrealistic promises which prevailed at the time, the crowd delighted in the biting satire.

delighted in the biting satire.

The meeting finished with the ringing campaign slogan: "Vote the Noodle and give the whole Kaboodle to Doodle". To orgastic cheering, Doodle vanished into the night. In the event, Doodle tiid not stand in the election. His candidacy was a joke, but a very pointed one. Spare us your old hatreds, the young were saying, we want a different Ireland.

My uncle would later carry on the battle as one of Ireland's best-loved writers, satirising the crony politics of the day and portraying in his plays a country struggling for social and political change. In the Sixtles, he was one of the leaders of a movement which would argue against the compulsory teaching of Irish in schools. Although a finent speaker and lover of Irish, John B felt the young were being turned against the language. He had little time for the narrow nationalist elite who used the language as a political weapon. It was a stand which would earn him verbal and physical abuse, culminating in a savage attack at a meeting in Dublin, from which he was lucky to escape without serious rejury.

Tooly heard the story of Tom Doodle in its full glory last summer, in the course of a long journey back through the political landscape

of my childhood and family. I knew that various members of my father's family had been involved in the IRA, among them my grandmother, Hanorah Purtill. Once while staying with her in Kerry during the holidays, I remember a war pension arriving at her house on Church Street. And when I asked her about it she admitted she'd once been an IRA volunteer.

But like so many who had taken part in the bitter struggles of 1919-22, Hannie Keane was slow to talk about what had happened, what she had seen and done. I knew only that she was a devont follower of Michael Collins and that after the Treaty she had abandoned the gun in favour of politics. Throughout my life I had known her as a gentle granny, a woman who passionately





Fergal Keane's uncle, the playwright John B Keane (top), and his grandmother, Hanorah Purtill (above), an IRA volunteer during the War of Independence

supported constitutional politics and never neglected to cast her vote. And so when my uncle told me about her revolutionary life one morning last summer, I knew I was discovering an altogether more complex woman.

At the age of 17, Hannie Keane had become a member of Cumann Na Mhan, the female wing of the IRA. The women provided intelligence, logistical and moral support to the gummen who were attacking British forces and the Royal Irish Constabulary. My grand-uncle, Mick Purtill (Hannie's brother), was one of the main IRA leaders in the area.

One of Hannie's jobs was to sanuggle guns around the neighbourhood. According to my uncle, she did this by concealing them in her underwear, a place not even the notorious Black and Tans (British Irregulars) would think of searching. But they did suspect

her enough to issue a death threat. One evening while she was walking home, a Black and Tan by the name of Darcy stopped Hannie and put a gum to her head. She was given 24 hours to get out of town, a warning she chose to ignore.

Hannie survived, but many of her comrades-in-arms did not. Hannie Keane was no different from thousands of young men and women who had flocked to the republican movement after the British had executed the leaders of the Easter 1916 rebellion. In a matter of weeks, British stupidity had inflamed public opinion. The radicalisation of public opinion which the rebels had sought was achieved by British firing squads. As my uncle put it to me: "If you have never had to aspire for freedom, if you have always had it, then it's impossible to understand what it means to live without it"

The War of Independence in North Kerry was a savage affair. The nearby town of Ballylongford was attacked and burned by the Black and Tans; in the valley of Knockanure, the Tans shot dead three men after ordering them to run across an open field. My grand-uncle helped the only survivor of that attack to escape and bring the story to national attention.

For its part, the IRA conducted a ruthless campaign, killing Black and Tans and also fellow Irishmen who wore the uniform of the Royal Irish Constabulary. Houses belonging to unpopular Protestant landlords were burned, those suspected of pro-British sympathies were killed or driven out, informers were executed without mercy.

In one case an RIC district inspector was walking up Church Street in Listowel after attending mass when he was surprised by the IRA and murdered. I don't know how much of the local campaign my grandmother participated in, or how much she knew about the planning of such attacks. I do remember my father telling me a story about a murdered British officer haunting the house on Church Street, a green shadow who flickered across the walls at night.

Was this the fruit of fantasy or did it hint at some dark story untold? My grandmother died before I was interested enough to ask her about the truth of those days. I will never know. So much of our Irish past is snagged with myth and suppressed memory, it is as if the blood and the bitterness made truth too painful to bear. When the British departed in 1922 the IRA split. My grandmother took the side of the pro-Treaty forces.

The issue then, as now, was the partition of the country. Where you stood on partition, whether you would kill and die over it, became the trenchline that defined our national politics for generations. In North Kerry the Civil War was, in the words of Professor Brendan Kenneally, a family friend and a leading Irish poet: "The dirtiest fight of all time, families split by it, football teams split by it. A bitter, bitter time".

Two stories he remembers from that time: at Ballyseedy outside the town of Tralee, soldiers of the Free State Army tied nine IRA prisoners to a landmine and then stood back and detonated the device. Eight of the men were blown to pieces. One miraculously survived to tell the story. At Clashmelcon, near Listowel, a group of IRA men hiding in caves overlooking the sea were urged to surrender and climb up some ropes which had been lowered by the Army. As they came to the top, the soldiers cut the ropes and sent the men falling to their deaths on the rocks below.

That was Irishmen killing Irishmen. Irish Catholics killing Irish Catholics. I did not hear those stories growing up. The history I learned in school was safe history: Irish heroes and English villains. And there was no shortage of English villainy to contemplate. The curse of Cromwell, the rebellion of 1798, the Famine, the Easter Rising, the Black and Tans. But the blood and guts of what we did to each other was skipped over. The Civil War and the bloody reality of what the IRA did in

prosecuting its war against the British was glossed over.

I went to school in 1966, the year Ireland celebrated the 50th

anniversary of the Easter Rising. They were stirring times. I remember the radio relentlessly playing ballads and martial music.

As the voice of one announcer droned repeatedly: "If you must sing a song, sing an Irish song".

I dreamed of dying for Ireland. Our schoolyard battles were always the same: the Irish versus the Brits. My hero was Patrick Pearse. Noble and handsome. I longed to emulate him, to perish in glorious battle. And I understood, too, that to be Irish was to be Catholic. I may have loathed the boredom of Sunday masses Continued on page 2



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MUSIC

Minicom and translation services available. Calls are confidential but may recorded for training purposes. Registered charity number 262710.

Turn of the year

Sir: Is it not time the authorities in London looked into an organised event for New Year's Eve? Year after year we have the police asking for people not to attend the annual gathering at Trafalgar Square, and this is ignored by thousands. It is time for our great capital city to follow the lead of Edinburgh and organise an event, perhaps in Hyde Park, with screens showing Big Ben, live music and maybe even the London Mayor ANDREW REEVES Dartford, Kent

Sir: Ian Campbell comments that over the Christmas period travel by rail has been impossible" (letter, 30 December). One reason has been the lack of any Christmas timetable available to the public.

In previous years free timetables have been available. The notice at my local station indicates that a modified service is running over Christmas and the New Year, but gives no clue as to what these modifications may be. Ring the national rail inquiry number and you are greeted with a recorded message to the effect that because of adverse weather conditions in Scotland and the North of England, all lines are busy.

Am I being over-cynical in thinking that train operators are looking for an excuse (few passengers) to cut down even further the services over Christmas and New Year? And if train times are not publicised, how can you complain about cancellations and delays? SUSAN WATKIN Lincoln

Sir: Ted Hughes said: "Before us stands yesterday." So it does, but what if we choose to ignore it?

Throughout 1998 we have seen fit to dismiss the 350th anniversary of 1648, the climactic year of the English Revolution: the Second Civil War, the defeat of Stuart absolutism, Pride's Purge and the creation of cabinet government in the Council of State. It was the year that set the pattern for the American and French revolutions. Bunyan said of its message: "Until you know this you are to yourselves unknown."

There may be some remedy at hand. The new year is the 400th anniversary of Cromwell's birth and the 350th of the end of Charles I, to be marked by an exhibition at the Museum of London. Into both we can read the deeper constitutional significance of 1648. PETER CADOGAN London NW6

Dollar vs euro

Sir: Lord Howe's myopic article "Declare for the euro now, Mr Blair" (31 December) is typical of those that ignore the everspreading use of the US dollar for commercial purposes everywhere else in the world. Given our common roots, language, legal system, defence synergies and currency stability with the USA, it is criminal that there is no debate over which currency block we should be joining. RON WEST Croydon, Surrey

Sir: The launch of the euro requires a sustained and serious discussion on its inevitable effects for Britain. Its very existence affects the UK. It is imperative that

Britain makes a positive decision. Over the past few years Britain has adopted a wait-and-see policy. Politicians have run scared of the tabloid press. But now, the actual existence of the euro forces us to decide how to act to prevent the UK being pushed to the periphery of Europe, and the loss of political

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Panto Season No 5: At the Northcott Theatre in Exeter, members of the chorus for 'Dick Whittington' wait in the wings

John Voos

influence that implies. We call on the Government to set a date for British entry into the euro. Young people's jobs depend upon it. ROBERT COPPINGER President

Young European Movement London SW1

Millennium man

Sir: Humans are the only creatures on this planet who can ask how we came to be here. Only the scientific method offers a way to answer such questions. Of those who have had the greatest impact on the progress of science my own choice for person of the millennium is Charles Darwin. The understanding of evolution is the single most important event so far in our path to understanding of life. In the next millennium the scientific method should yield a full biological understanding of life starting with the description of the sequence of the human genome. ALAN R WILLAMSON Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire

Term-time holidays

Sir: Modern education has been described as "the mouse race that trains our children for the rat race".

Heaven forbid that those young, inquiring minds should ever be allowed to focus on anything but the grim tasks of "curriculum tests". Unthinkable that these lively little folk should be let loose, during term-time to do such useless things as visiting cathedrals, exploring rock pools, listening to other languages and music, walking on nature trails, seeing how children in other

countries live, climbing mountains, learning to swim or snorkel, calculating in foreign currencies or experiencing at first hand those other cultures from which their parents may have sprung ("Heads seek term-time holiday ban", 30 December). Perhaps the National Association of Head Teachers would prefer children to be manacled to their desks so that parents would be unable to spirit them away during term-time for these dreadful,

unscheduled holidays. I shall always remember a conversation I had with one of my daughters, a few days after we returned from a three-month tour of Europe (in term time). "The kids in my class have just finished a project on ancient Greece," said this little girl who, a few weeks earlier, had been staring awestruck at the Parthenon and running

Sir: One is constantly being told

by "industry spokespeople"

stock the products they do

because of demand from

them introduce me to the

water added to bacon?

RWSMITH

Marlow Bottom.

Buckinghamshire

Year's resolution and keep it? Not

for a long time. If ever. And I'll tell you why. It's because we all make

resolutions to cure the worst part of

our behaviour. In other words, we

make the resolutions that are least

likely to be kept, because they are

An untidy person resolves to be

tidy and an overweight person to eat

less. Fat chance. Ten days later the

mess is as bad as ever and the diet

must make a resolution which you

will find easy to keep. And the best

way to do that is choose a resolution

at random. How do you make a res-

olution at random? Easy. You pick one

from the following list of resolu-

tions, randomly provided by our tire-

Just stick a pin in the piece and

make a solemn oath to keep whatever

oath fate lands you win. Here we go,

less Independent computer.

then. Say after me: I resolve ...

If overweight, to be tidier.

If untidy, to eat less.

So here's what you must do. You

the hardest.

forgotten.

person who first asked to have

Sir: Your leading article of 31

French Légion d'Honneur and

WHEN DID you last make a New To buy no more books until I have

December compared the

our Medal of Honor (not

"Congressional Medal of

Honor" although Congress

that supermarkets "have to"

races with her sister among the ruins of Olympia. "And can you believe, they thought it was boring. I felt so sorry for them."

Teachers had been supportive, asking only that the girls keep a diary of their journey and bring it back to share with the class. But that was 1977. I guess the mouse race has become grimmer since then. Poor little mice. MARIAN McCAIN Ivybridge, Devon

Hit and miss

Sir: It is worrying to hear that senior police officers like Roy Penrose cite films as an explanation for the rise of the "hitmen" in Britain (report, 28 December). We might expect this nation from Decoli ignorant of the pattern of hit-man killings, or prepared to forget hitman films going back to Jimmy Cagney. Old Mafia movies and the Krays show us that explanation is not found in Hollywood, but in the socio-economic conditions of Britain.

We have moved closer to the US in many other respects. The hitman, like the age-structured gang and the drug territory battles, is but one facet of social exclusion

and the cheapening of human life. Perhaps the director-general of our National Crime Squad was fired up by Christmas repeats, but our interests would be better served if he addressed the real issues. I assume that he does not blame killer-cop movies for the rise in police resort to firearms? ANDY WILSON Mannheim Centre for

London School of Economics London SE10

Sir: David Bishop is right that

Jesus nowhere uses the phrase

Wowser country

Sir: I am surprised by Christopher Hawtree's claim (Words, 23 December: that the word 'wowser", meaning killjoy, "was in recent use in both England and America before becoming Australian," with evidence offered that The Economist used it here in 1963 followed by The Times in 1977. I heard it commonly in Australia for years before I left there in 1954.

And only in Australia: over a period of two years during the war here I found no English person who understood the word and for more than 30 years past here. I have consistently had to explain to English people what it means and even how to spell it.

My 1951 edition of the Concise Uxford Dictionary includes it. correctly - as "puritanical fanatic" with its source as Australia. I have never known an American who knew the word or its meaning, including my American relatives.

I cannot say that it has never been used elsewhere, but it surely is as Australian as "bunyip" (a mythical animal) or "furphy" (rumour). LEN CLARKE Uxbridge, Middlesex

Pigeon post?

Sir: Appropriate to get an explanation of "round robin" sent to Canary Wharf from Leighton Buzzard (letter, 28 December). My own round robin is outside the kitchen window; to my fat cat's disgust, he was the recipient of the remains of the Christmas turkey. MICHAEL JJDAY Giggleswick, North Yorkshire

Fergal Keane's **Ireland**

Continued from page 1 but my Catholic identity was not up for debate. It had come down to me from my devout grandmother, who had in turn been given it by her grandparents.

But looking back now I sense that 1966 was the high watermark of the old nationalism. The Irish identity which had been defined in terms of its Catholic faith and its antagonism to the British was evolving into something altogether more exciting.

We might have played war games in the day but at night we had television to look at, with its imported programmes and ideas. We were heading into Europe, taking part in UN peacekeeping operations, we were embarking on economic policies that reversed the isolationism of the past. My uncle John B and many other writers were challenging the accepted orthodoxies of church and state. The women's movement was agitating on issues such as contraception and equal rights in the workplace.

All around me Ireland was changing, but I was too young to see it. I do have one memory which underlines both the nature of the state and the challenge it was facing. Every few weeks my mother would hand me a brown envelope and send me to Mrs Gleeson's chemist around the corner from our Dublin home. Once inside, I would hand the envelope to the chemist on duty. She would disappear into a back room and return with the envelope, filled now with small tablets. "What's that, mam?" I asked one morning. "That's just the Pill, love. Just the Pill."

I hadn't a clue what "the Pill" was but I knew it was something secret. And there it was, a small act of subversion, but one being repeated by women across the country. It was a new revolution, altogether different from the battles of the past.

And then, in 1969, the long, festering wound of partition burst in our faces. The politics of blood returned to Ireland and filled our television screens every night. As the Troubles ground on we were alternately horrified, outraged, sickened, mystified, saddened, apathetic. The struggle which my grandmother and her comrades had abandoned in 1922 in favour of constitutional polities had come back to haunt us.

At first we felt sympathy for the Northerners, our nationalist impulses twitched reflexively. But the war up North was brutal and unromantic. Dismembered bodies. Widows and orphans. We didn't live through it, but its poison infected the whole island. And with every brutal lage, it became harder to cling to the simplistic, nationalist pieties. To paraphrase Yeats: Romantic Ireland was dead and gone.

It took 30 years of murder and violent sectarianism to bring the people of Ireland, north and south, to the point of agreement. Now we have reached that point, there is a feeling akin to a collective intake of breath. We hover before this peace, uncertain and nervous. Will it last? Where will it take us? What kind of country have we become on the journey to peace? I don't know what my grandmother would think of this new island. I suspect the conservative, Catholic part of her nature would find some of the changes difficult to accept. But I hope the revolutionary in her, the rebel heart, would celebrate the freedom we are finding.

Fergal Keane's three-part series Trish Journeys' begins on Saturday at 7.25pm on BBC 2

THIS WEEK IN THEINDEPENDENT **ON SUNDAY**



Anita Brookner on a new exhibition of **Ingres' paintings**

What happens when you snort heroin? Aerobics teacher Emily Jenkins describes her experience

IN BRIEF

British honours bestowed in the New Year list. Rather, the customers. Please could one of Medal of Honor is comparable to the Victoria Cross. As I recall the criteria for its award - which must be confirmed by two eye-witnesses superior in rank to the nominee — the soldier, sailor, airman or marine must have exhibited conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty under fire in action against the enemies of the United States. RASHEETZ must approve any award) with

Alexandria, Virginia, USA

read all the books I already possess.

To throw out all the dried spices on

my kitchen either which are more

than 10 years old or which I cannot

To buy my produce at little High Street shops until Safeways has

gone bankrupt, or at least until I am

forced to go back to Safeways

because there were no bloody

authergines in the bloody High Street.

To give up reading any articles which

are headed: "New Labour, new rift"

"African fossil find leads to rethink on

To boldly split infinitives without a

Not to use such pointless time-wast-

human origins".

identify with a blindfold sniff.

"all people are equal" (letter, 28 December), though St Paul comes close when he says that for Christians "there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, but all are one in Christ Jesus". But he had something much more important to proclaim: the coming of the kingdom of God. For this to happen everyone has to be treated as equal, which is why Jesus teaches us to love all our neighbours, even the outcast and despised, as we love ourselves. The Rev MICHAEL COUNSELL London SE23

An exclusive Independent readers' offer:

New Year's resolutions even you can keep

MILES KINGTON

To visit a total stranger in hospital and keep telling her you hardly recognise her

or "Cancer cure breakthrough" or Never again to sing "My Way", or any

> To smile at drivers who cut in front of me and discover that road radiance is even more effective (ie annoying) than road rage.

Not to use such pointless time-wasting expressions as "as it were", "as To get rid of all Ordnance Survey Never to vote in any personality of the Never to call anything "the new it might be", "as such" or "if you like". maps more than 10 years old, unless year contest, or anything which in-

they are more than 50 years old and volves ringing one number for Yes therefore getting valuable again.

To practise my signature until it begins to look something like the scrawi on my credit cards again.

To give up reading all articles headed "BBC reshuffle spells new threat to radio", "Sports supremo promises massive shake-up" or "TV documentary was fixed".

To go carol singing next year, but singing only carols in French.

When asked what I want to drink in a pub, to say "The unusual, please" and then to try something new for a

To ruthlessly reduce the number of keys on my key-ring by half.

and another for No.

To phone up a prostitute's telephone number and try to sell her double

To avoid all articles headed: "New ways with noodles" or "Open up that attic or "Ten uses for a converted church".

To think up 10 more valid uses to which cotton buds can be put.

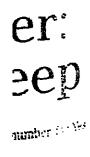
To visit a total stranger in hospital and keep telling her you hardly recognise her.

To ask people if they have noticed that nobody seems to be discussing

Peter Mandelson's sexuality any

الميكذا من الاعل

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tate's telephone seli har harba s beaded. New or The

e wild that an be put

nger in hospital her you have) ey have noticed to be discussed as

"Old Blue Eyes". But more uplifting events occurred, too, such as the [baseball home-run record race, the return of an astronaut hero

table, uncertain where they stood.

Quite unexpectedly the partnership

has been broken. Suddenly cabinet ministers have rediscovered some of

The interview with John Prescott

in The Independent on Wednesday

was one such example of the new po-

litical situation. It is a remarkable doc-

ument, one which should head

straight for the files of those of us

chronicing this elusive government

day in, day out. For on the surface

TALK ABOUT prophetic. We

started the year by going nuts

over a disaster movie, Titanic.

By the time 1998 had finally

blown over however we had

coped with plenty of real-life

catastrophes, El Niño, Mon-

icagate, embassy bombings,

school shootings, flash floods,

their own self-confidence.

[John Glenn], Saving Private Ryon, a resurgent bull market and even - dare we say it? - the introduction of Viagra. The Kansas City Star

TO LAUNCH the new year, we suggest these proclamations for a select few people: the Chiefs, even the passing of Linda Tripp: Resolve to find a

real job. All Presidential Hopefuls: Resolve to spend as much time talking to voters as raising campaign contributions.

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

The American press looks back on the old year - and forward to the new one

solve to print "Compassionate

Conservative" T-shirts and fol-

low that motto no matter how

rough other party factions play.

The Dallas Morning News

Bill Gates: Resolve to remem- Governor George W Bush: Reber more about your business strategy than President Clinton did about Monica Lewinsky, or Ken Starr did about his inves-

let 1998 drag its surreal, sorry carcass out the back door without further comment, we present once again our year-end list of winners and sinners. The Golden Spigot Award: The office of independent counsel Kenneth Starr. The last

thing we saw leaking that much was the Titanic.

With Friends like these Trophy (female division): Linda Tripp. With Friends like these Trophy (international division): The Philadelphia Inquirer

AS TEMPTING as it might be to behaviour kept undercutting French and Russian efforts to lift sanctions against Iraq and end his pariah status. The W C Fields Award: The

Saddam Hussein, whose nasty

Republican convention site selectors, who, on the whole, would rather be in Philadelphia. Unheeded Wisdom Award: The President's Initiative on Race. It was hard to hear in all the static, but the dialogues and report were useful.

*THE INDEPENDENT

I CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435 THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Midnight! A happy, bouncing euro is born as 1999 rings in

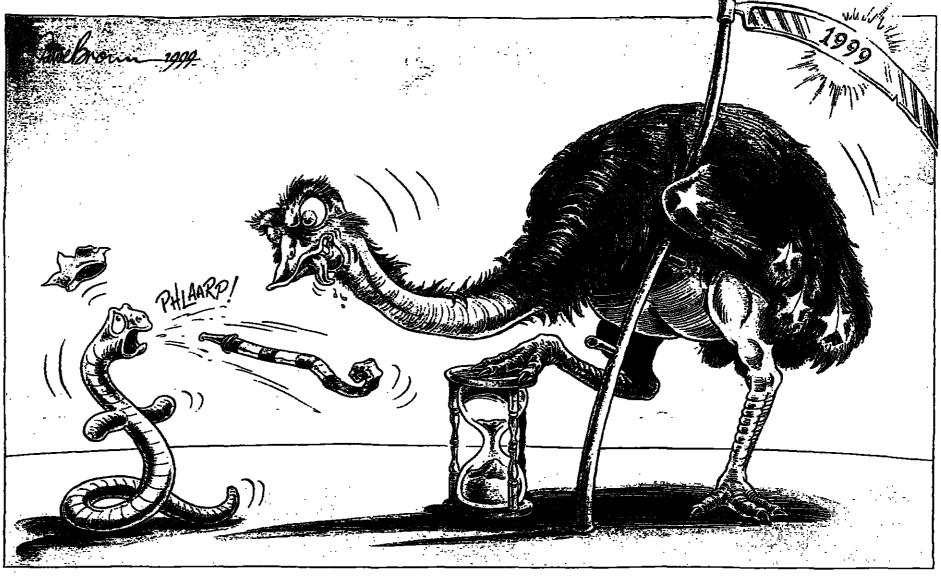
NOTHING MUCH happened at midnight last night (except the odd party), and yet everything changed. The euro was born - and yet this event merely formalises the ties that have bound 11 European currencies for some time. The European Central Bank was already running interest-rate policy for the euro area, engineering last month's cut in rates for all 11 currencies. And the French will carry on using francs and the Germans marks for three-and-a-half more years: euro notes and coins will only be phased in during the first half of 2002. But the euro now exists as a trading and banking currency. British visitors to the Continent will be able to take euro travellers' cheques; their credit card bills will be itemised in euros, and conversion costs will drop. Over time, more and more prices in continental Europe will be shown in the both local currencies and their euro equivalents.

What matters most to Britain about today's calendar flip is that the alarmists have been dished. Half the Eurosceptics said the euro would never happen, and the other half said it would be born into a Europe torn by economic chaos and civil disorder. Even sensible people like John Major and Kenneth Clarke used to say there was a good chance it would not be launched on time. All that turned out to be bunkum. Not just wrong, but silly. The euro is being launched in conditions of organised calm. Most significantly, it arrives with a degree of popular consent which was unexpected just six months ago. The German public, above all, which had long been deeply suspicious of the plan to replace their mark, seems to have accepted the euro with a shrug.

This has implications for Britain, where there is a referendum yet to be won. The arguments are well-known, and some of those against the euro are justified: the European Central Bank is neither open, nor accountable enough; and there are likely to be problems of regional recessions in the euro area which will put pressure on the Brussels budget. However, the gains for Europe's citizens - primarily economic but also cultural - outweigh the doubts. At its worst, the argument for joining is that we would lose by staying out.

It seems that public opinion will only begin to move, however, once joining the euro has become an accepted fact. Britain's membership is taking on an air of inevitability among politicians and commentators - now the Government needs to bring this home to the British people. The Chancellor will this month publish detailed plans for what needs to be done if the decision to join were taken: that much is welcome - but it is not enough.

Tony Blair should move from the negative - there is no constitutional bar to Britain's joining - to the positive the Government believes it is in Britain's interest to join



the euro. And he should move, as Peter Mandelson did prematurely last year, from "if" to "when". As Geoffrey Howe suggested in The Independent yesterday, he should set a target date for British entry. Not only would a date become an anchor in the markets, thus reaping for Britain many of the benefits of monetary union straight away, it would reverse the polarity of popular assumptions - from "out unless, we vote to go in" to "in unless, we vote to stay out". Remember, too, that for continental Europeans the single currency has been a fact since the Maastricht Treaty was signed in December 1991. Even for decimalisation, the changeover date was set in 1966, five years ahead.

Mr Blair should say that the Government wants Britain to be able to join the euro "from 2003". To be sure, a date would be a hostage to fortune. But not setting a date would be worse. The Prime Minister said last month: "When I sav that I want Britain to be a leading partner in Europe, engaged in shaping its future, I mean it. And I can deliver it." This year, his boast will be tested.

Don't blame the Yemeni government

IN ALL the discussion of precisely how the hostages were killed in Yemen, we are in danger of forgetting a simple truth. It is not the Yemeni authorities who are primarily to blame for the death of the four tourists but the Islamic Jihad group who seized them in the first place.

On the first accounts of the survivors - although their tales are still confused - it does seem as if the Yemeni troops fired first. No doubt the action could have been carried out more safely. Given the past history of Yemeni hostage-

taking, the tourists must have known they were taking risks. But the crucial point remains: these were western hostages deliberately taken by a fundamentalist group for to their demands for the release of their leader from jail

as if this was no different than the ransoms they have agreed with previous hostage-takers in the region.

We have learnt enough from air-hijacking to know that giving in to such demands never works. We have also learnt enough - or should have by now - to treat seizing hostages in this manner as a form of international terrorism, not a peculiar pastime of a wild country. The lessons of airhijacking are there to be read. There has to be international co-ordination of intelligence and countermeasures. Special forces have to be trained for quick response. But above all, the perpetrators of such actions have to be made to understand that, even if they escape, they will be pursued for decades not just years - each time they travel abroad or use the banking system. Yes, revise the Foreign Office warning system (although they cannot be held responsible for every tourist taking risks abroad). Yes, examine what did happen in the fatal shoot-out in political ends. The Yemeni authorities couldn't just give in southern Yemen. But don't let that detract from the international effort that is now required.

A resolution for Tony Blair: try not to neglect the Cabinet

AN ESSENTIAL feature of the politi- in a few paragraphs he implies that cal pantomime played out during the the emphasis on spin has detracted later Thatcher years and virtually the from the substance of government polentire Major regime was that when- icy, that ministers were more interever they went abroad the troubleventionist than Mandelson ever makers in their party had a ball at allowed for at the DTI and that Keyhome. "When the PM's away the nesianism is alive and kicking under mice come out to play" was the theme New Labour. He insists that Mandelof many a political column, as the din son's departure was not a big event of domestic politics disrupted prime yet the interview demonstrates how ministerial excursions. It would be an big it was. He would not have given exaggeration to say that Tony Blair's precisely the same answers if Manholiday in the Seychelles has been delson had still been the rising star of the administration. wrecked by the post-Mandelson manocuvrings in Britain. Nonetheless the What is more, he singles out his remice have been out to play this week

lationship with Gordon Brown as and there have been some pretty sigbeing much stronger than before, which I can confirm to be the case. A nificant games. Some of the mice, Blair's own cabyear before the election there was as inet colleagues, sense the freedom of great a mutual resentment between a little political space with the dethe two of them as there was between parture of Peter Mandelson. Indeed some of the other rivals at the fracthe sound of ministers burrowing out tious head of New Labour In government a respect has evolved, not of their holes, seeking daylight, is the first consequence of the Mandelson afleast as a result of the former Treafair. For more than four years most of sury minister Geoffrey Robinson actthem felt intimidated by the Blairing as a link between them. Mandelson partnership, or were in awe of it. They sat around the top

A Brown/Prescott alliance is not necessarily a threat to Blair, but it could become one unless he treads carefully on his return. At different times, for different reasons, both of them have had cause to question privately and with fury what has gone on

in the prime ministerial court. Also reviewing the new political landscape will be Robin Cook, who has never had any time for Mandelsonian New Labourism, but felt so weak six months ago that he let the Blairites reviews in the media. Can he flex his virtually rewrite a speech he delivered on the Third Way. Recently he has Prescott is utterly loyal, and yet with been worried that Mandelson was

STEVE RICHARDS

Ministers burrowing out of their holes, seeking daylight, is the first consequence of the Mandelson affair

breathing down his neck, seeking his job. He was right to be worried. I have no doubt that Mandelson would have been Foreign Secretary under a Blair government in the fullness of time.

Suddenly that burden has been lifted for Cook. He has not become the star he was in opposition overnight, but there will be more of a spring in his stride as the new year begins. Cook has always been the hope of the neo-Keynesians among Labour MPs. With Prescott citing the great economist too, Cook may feel that his cause is not

entirely dead. A little further down the Cabinet others will be reflecting over the New Year. Jack Straw continues to get rave muscles and scupper for good the PR project which he fiercely opposes?

per cent Blairite and suffered the oc- Margaret Thatcher, but she stands as casional humiliation at their hands in the early days. Will he sense some

room for manneuvre?

And what about Margaret Beckett, moved from the DTI before many of her policies could be implemented and who has seen some of them revised under Mandelson? And how will Clare Short be feeling now that the most prominent "person in the dark" has failed to survive in the more glamorous and powerful light for more than

six months? These are early days, but Mandelson was such a uniquely powerful fig-ure because his relationship with Blair was so strong, and the dynamics of the Government are bound to change. But any suggestion of a cab-inet acting collectively against its leader is way off the mark. While some are united in their wariness of Mandelson's influence on Blair, they are divided among themselves on every-

thing else. Cook and Short are supporters of PR, while Prescott, Brown and Straw are not. But Cook and Short view each other warily from their overlapping departments. Cook and Brown do not get on still, while Short has been a longterm admirer of Brown and a critic of Prescott. There is ample scope for

Blair to divide and rule. But he needs to make the cabinet feel more involved in the "project" (which Prescott mischievously described only as implementing the manifesto) or else some of them will become rather less docile than they have been since he became leader. We David Blunkett has never been a 100 are nowhere near the dying days of the New Statesman'

a permanent warning of what happens if a cabinet is neglected. Blair's New Year resolution should be to bring back cabinet government or some of the

Cabinet will turn on him. Now, having made a resolution for the Prime Minister, let me propose a related one to all politicians, before more of them are hounded on to the back benches to join Mandelson; play down the sleaze allegations against your opponents for sooner or later, you

will be hoist with your own petard. In my last column, which appeared the day before the Mandelson/Robinson story broke, I argued that we expected too much from the private lives of politicians. Within 48 hours two of them were gone from the government for relatively trivial reasons. In the current climate more will be on the back

benches before the year is out. The shame of it is that no one who is gay, wealthy or been anywhere near a bra millionairess will consider a career in politics. Yet we need the best politicians we can get our hands on, so to speak. Most talented politicians could earn far more and enjoy more uninhibited sex in other vocations, but still they are viewed as a bunch of sex-crazed crooks.

Some Tories will suffer but the Government will be rocked more. It is one of the many reasons why this year will be a testing one for the Prime Minister. Blair will need his friends, and will have a much clearer idea of his enemies, by the end of 1999.

Steve Richards is political editor of

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"History's most well-known refugee was a baby called Jesus.' Dr George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"A bad beginning makes a bad ending." Euripides. Classical Greek playwright

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RIGHT OF REPLY

NICK HERBERT

The chief executive of Business for Sterling replies to Geoffrey Howe's plea for Britain to join the euro

GEOFFREY HOWE does not bother to make an economic case for giving up the pound (The Independent, 31 December 1998). He simply falls back on the language of fear: it is inevitable; we will have no influence; so we must join. No mention of the risks, nor the underlying political agenda which is driving the whole project.

But there are powerful economic reasons for Britain to keep our own currency. Our business cycle is different from that of Germany and France. A "one size fits all" European interest rate would be more likely to suit the Continent than us, and the wrong interest rate could be devastating for British economy.

Our membership of the Exchange Rate Mechanism. urged upon Britain by. among others, Geoffrey Howe, gave us interest rates that were too high. Unemployment doubled, and we set a new record for business bankruptcies. At least we could get out of the ERM. But membership of the single currency would be irreversible.

We cannot and do not want to be excluded from the EU and the Single Market. But if we remain outside Euroland we have a better chance of avoiding the worst aspects of the European Economic model - endemic unemployment; crippling social costs; and an overgrown public sector and the high go with it.

The threat of tax harmonisation is not exaggerated. It is a clear and present danger to low-tax Britain, as would be the proposed withholding tax on savings, which would be lethal for London's Eurobond market.

The euro is no panacea for Europe's problems and it could well make them worse.

The truth is that for Britain the economic benefits of joining a regional currency zone would be modest compared with the risks. It would be wrong for us to take this gamble, and even more wrong for the Government to spend public money on preparations for entry before the British people have decided.

Britain can and will prosper, in Europe – but out of Euroland. We will be using the euro as freely as the dollar, and we will be in control of our own affairs.

Get away from me with your puny gongs

I LOVE the New Year's Honours list, and can happily spend hours poring over the small print. It's pleasant to imagine the pleasure given by these harmless awards. Civil servants who never got quite as far as they might have hoped being consoled by a pre-retirement CBE; ladies who have spent their lives in unhistoric acts and unspectacular goodness opening an envelope and finding that someone, anyway, has noticed their patient attendance on the commit-

tee at the hospice.

An end-of-term prize-giving: My Bloody Efforts for the boxers and the lollipop ladies, Other Buggers' Efforts for supervisors at the Inland Revenue; up to diplomats, retiring with a Call Me God, a Kindly Call Me God, or - for the very grand - God Calls Me God.

The honours list is a useful sort of incentive for the state to keep up its sleeve, encouraging people by the dream of eventual recognition. It used to be the Whips' secret weapon in heading off a backbenchers' rebellion - God knows what threats they have to use these days now that MPs don't get knight-



PHILIP HENSHER

Satie remarked that 'M Ravel has refused the Légion d'honneur, but all his works accept it'

hoods and they've done away with the little black book of backbench in-

And civil servants put up with relatively low levels of pay in exchange for two things: the near-certainty that they are safe from the threat of downsizing, and the hope of the eventual KCB which, when retirement comes, will allow the new Lady

Buggins to make a perfect ass of herself around the village.

All the same, the recipients of honours tall into two categories: those who would kill for another one, and those who frankly wouldn't really know what to do with one. The most conspicuous example of the latter sort of honour this year was the thoroughly well-deserved but somewhat curious award of a damehood to the Duchess of Devonshire. Universally beloved and admirable as she is, one can't help wondering what on earth she is going to do with it, or how exactly she is supposed to be addressed now - Duchess Dame Deborah, perhaps.

The existence of a category of people who wouldn't know what to do with a state honour explains, perhaps, why writers never make much of a showing in the honours lists. It's quite striking that, though writers are at the forefront of our national consciousness, and present one of the most conspicuous faces of Britain to the outside world, they are very rarely accorded any kind of recognition by the state in the honours lists. Peerages are generally

given, not for literary excellence, but, as in the case of P D James and Ruth Rendell, for devoted public service; knighthoods and damehoods are rarely given, and always with an air of an exception being made.

Writers don't get state honours, which, considering that, alone among the arts, they make no de-mands on the public purse and generate a consistently healthy slice of the economy, might be viewed as rather odd. Painters and sculptors do pretty well; actors, conductors and singers, it seems, need only carry on long enough to pick up a K. But only the very grandest and oldest novelists get anything at all. If Sir Simon Rattle, why not Sir Martin Amis? If Dame Felicity Lott, why not Dame Victo-

ria Glendinning?
The very idea seems absurd, and I think rightly so. I'm not arguing for more recognition for writers, rather the reverse. Paul Theroux's new book about his friendship with V S Naipaul spends a great deal of space on Naipaul's change of mind. According to Theroux, Naipaul in youth argued, rightly, against the ides of a writer accepting the state's honours, only to take a knighthood when it was offered. There is something wrong about the idea of Sir Vidia Naipaul, and I can't be alone in thinking that the author of The Enigma of Arrival is not augmented by the possession of a KČB.

It is demeaning on even the best of novelists to accept a bauble like this; the merits of the work, in the end, are going to have to be enough, and ought always to be enough.

Satie is said to have remarked bitchily of Ravel that "M.Ravel has refused the Legion d'honneur, but all his works accept it." How much worse to accept an honour, to be seen as the sort of writer that the government admires and respects; it is almost as deplorable as the award of knighthoods to the editors of newspapers, an honour which can only diminish the recipient. There are certainly writers who are universally known to be touting for knighthoods, but they are not writers worthy of anyone's respect, and, if their surreptitious campaigns ever succeeded, it is not likely that the ridicule would cease.

It would really be more sensible if a firm convention arose that writers fell outside the range of the honours system. The award of gongs. all in all, should be seen as what it is, a series of consolation prizes.

If you work in the civil service for not much money and no recognition. you might be glad of the K. Similarly. the preponderance of the performing arts in the lists, the readiness to reward sportsmen ought to be seen less as an attempt to court popularity and more of a consolation for the undeniable fact that they will soon be completely forgotten. Hardly anyone remembers actors, or footballers, or sopranos after their retirement; let them have a cheap bit of recognition for their mantel-

Writers shouldn't need a consolation prize; their work will be remembered, or forgotten, regardless of a piece of tinsel. Did Blake deserve a knighthood? Could the Government of the day have given Dickens, or George Eliot, or Waugh anything which might begin to recognise what they had done? Should it even have tried?

Now we have the euro, it is time to prepare for full political union

ON THE first of January - actually, make that the fourth, as the first working day in 1999 - the world will wake up to a genuine revolution, something without precedent in history. It is a common currency, the euro, without a common state.

This has never been tried before. Historically, the sequence was always reversed. Take the 19th century. First, Bismarck had to pound 25 little Germanys into the Reich in 1871 - with "blood and iron", as he famously put it. Only then did a common currency, the mark, follow. Ditto Italy in the days of Cavour and Garibaldi: first political fusion by force, then a common lira from Milan to Messina. Or the United States. The first step was the constitution in 1787; true monetary union came only 126 years later with the founding of the Federal Reserve (and with a bloody war of unification in between).

a daunting task. On 1 January, the robank's independence while it is Eleven will relinquish a big chunk of still new and unsure of itself. national sovereignty: the power to manipulate the quantity and the price of money. Nor is this all. Under the Stability Pact, which is part and parcel of European Monetary Union (Emu), the Eleven have also given away a large chunk of fiscal sovereignty. No longer can they go into wanton deficit spending, never mind the national debt. Electorates barely accept such regimen when meted out by their own governments. But conflict among them will put enornow, they will have to submit to those distant, almost anonymous men ensconced in the European Central Bank (ECB) in Frankfurt.

If they do, the euro is safe. But the steady sniping against those "unaccountable" Eurobankers by the likes of German finance minister Oskar Lafontaine already tells of the troubles to come. "Little Napoleon." as his countrymen call him, and his leftish brethren who govern 13 of the



JOSEF JOFFE

The euro is like putting the cart before the horse. Either Europe will federate or disintegrate

15 EU countries don't like the idea of an ECB that is virtually the German Bundesbank writ large. They want more than just easy money. So the Europe of the Eleven faces They want to grab hold of the Eu-

> January 1: politics vs. sound money. The other is just as serious. Will all those governments who just squeaked in under the bar of the Maastricht criteria (low debt, deficit and interest) stay the course of euro-minded virtue? What if, say, the Germans do and the Italians don't? Unless all of these governments behave as if their were already one, mous pressures on the "union".

Think about Emu as a train where all the cars must move at the same speed in the same direction at all times. Unless they do, the train will derail. That is the greatest test faced by a monetary union without political union.

much better than could have been expected in March when only very few among the Eleven could make to their familiar national car makers.

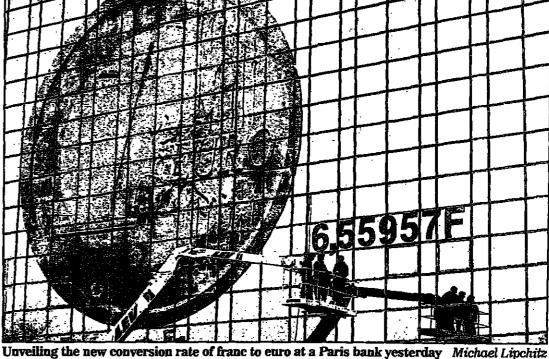
the cut without having to massage the books. To begin with, the monetary tsunami that crashed through the East Asian economies did not derail the Emu train as it moved toward the 1999 starting line. All currencies remained in tandem and

running against the euro as it did in key countries, notably Germany, since the Maastricht Treaty was signed in 1992. Germans are still not happy when contemplating the impending loss of their precious deutschmark. But nowhere in Euroland did the critics manage to turn Emu into a a salient issue, let alone a rabble rouser. Because no mainstream party has picked up the anti-euro flag, people have accepted the inevitable. Also, fears have failed to galvanise because nothing will really change for Herr Schmidt and Mme Dupont on January 4. They will still carry deutschmarks and francs all the way into to January 1, 2002. In the meantime, the euro will enjoy a fairly easy trial run. Because they are either anticipating a "hard" euro or continued political turmoil in Washington, the money markets are depressing the dollar, which strengthens the currencies of the Eleven. That should build trust in the euro and even turn it into a a new reserve money rivalling the dollar. Inside Euroland, Emu will do wondrous things for large banks and insurance companies. Obviously, if all stocks, bonds and policies traded between Lisbon and Leipzig are denominated in one currency only, then sheltered national markets

field where Herr Schmidt and Mme But for now, Emu's prospects look Dupont can suddenly pick among Fiat, VW, Renault and Seat shares whereas in the past they used to ding

on track. Also, popular opinion is no longer

will collapse, burying previously favoured niche players.



That will make for more efficient capital markets and perhaps even jog the EU's lagging growth rates.

In general, the euro will simply add to the pressures of the global market. Giants like Siemens or Credit Lyonnais, previously favoured by national habits and policies, will have to compete in a much more transparent market. That should be good for the consumer, as it will drive down prices

This is the upside of the euro. The downside is the familiar one. You can't really have a common cur-There will be one big playing rency without a common government. At least it has never been done before. So the euro is like putting the cart before the horse. Either Europe will have to federate

Why so? The modern nation state is inextricably tied up with the sovereign's control over the purse. Indeed this is how the modern nation state came about in Britain and France in the 16th and 17th centuries - when Henrys and Louis grabbed hold of the public finances with the help of their Wolseys and

Monetary union will wrest this critical piece of sovereignty from the hands of several states. They can no longer manipulate the exchange rate to stimulate increase exports. Nor will they be able to pump up the money supply in order to stimulate investments. Under the Stability Pact, they can't even do the Keynespending to drive down employ- in Munich

Colberts.

ment. This is why the euro is a make or-break affair.

Either the EU's member states go all the way and federate in a United States of Europe, or they claim back what they have relinquished at Maastricht in a fit of absent-mindedness: their suzerainty over monetary and fiscal policy. But this strange being spawned by Maastricht - monetary union without political union - cannot endure.

Think about trains where each car has its own engine and engineer. Either they all act as one, or the couplings will break and the train will

The author is the editorial page sian thing: go into heavy deficit editor of 'Suddeutsche Zeitung'

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GLOVES OFFER.

Middlee LEC-UN

ON THIS New Year's morning, looking back at disorderly 1998, all its 365 limbs now splayed out in a fatally hung-over heap on the scruffy sheets of history, the Or call the CREDIT Care HOTLINE ON 0181 571 9900 temptation is simply to leave it there. Shut the door. And throw away the key. But, no, the temptation to take one last glance over the year is too great to resist. Here are Pandora's 12 Greatest

Hits of 1998.

IT WAS the greatest mystery of Princess Diaga's will, but it took Pandora to question why, with a total bequest of £21,711,486, not a single pence was earmarked for charity? (9 March)

POOR DERRY Irvine (pictured) faced a huge and unforeseen personal tax bill for the controversial improvements. decoration and new furniture that were deemed necessary for his Lord Chancellor's apartments, according to the implications of a statement from Treasury Minister Dawn Primarolo. (20 March)

PANDORA WAS first to notice that Mohamed Al Fayed had begun to wear a giamorous custom-made wig that replicated the hairdo of his former press-spokesman, Michael Cole. (27 March)

PANDORA

LORD CHANCELLOR Irvine presented the "Freedom of Information Awards" in the City, striking Pandora as a bit rich since Derry had required his own curtain-weavers to sign the Official Secrets Act. (9 April) THE BRITISH Embassy in Washington DC hosted Sinn

Fein's Gerry Adams to lunch but, Pandora revealed, had never invited any of the officers of the US branch of the British Labour Party to enjoy its hospitality. (17 April) Months later, Pandora exclusively

reported that Ambassador Sir Christopher Meyer and his wife, at the end of his first year in office, had hosted a splendid gala dinner dance to celebrate their first wedding anniversary - at the British taxpayers' expense. (3 November)

PANDORA WAS first to see that the newly ennobled Lord Bragg would be forced to resign from his job as presenter of Radio 4's Start The Week because of a possible political conflict of interest.

FOLLOWING HIS fall from grace in the "Cronygate" scandals. Derek Draper's University of Manchester student political career – variously described by his peers as "criminal", "out of control" and "mad" – was recounted by Pandora. (9 July)

PANDORA DISCOVERED that ballot papers for Labour's National Executive Committee election were numbered, making a "secret election" rather unlikely. (27 August)

AT THE height of Pandora's widely supported Anti-Rucksack On The Tube Campaign, a reader sent in the shocking

story of a young man who narrowly escaped death when a luggage lout bumped him off the platform at Leicester Square underground station, (28 August)

> A LETTER from Lionel Jospin, Prime Minister of France, came to Pandora's

exclusive attention. It seemed the French PM had turned down the invitation to attend Blair and Clinton's "Third Way" seminar in New York, finding the whole affair absurd. (8 September)

SNIFFER DOGS were being used by British Transport police to indiscriminately screen commuters, including Pandora. at London's Camden Town tube station. This was part of "a new general initiative to crack down on crime", later deplored by civil libertarians. (10 September) Former Tory Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath was not, in fact, a fully paid-up member of the Conservative Party. (6 October) After discovering that the Nobel authorities in Norway had booked the Irish band The Cranberries for a December concert, Pandora's source revealed - accurately - that the Nobel Peace Prize would be shared among several Irish peacemakers. (13 October)

A FENG-SHUI expert, Rosalyn Dexter, had been invited to inspect the inside of 10 Downing Street and offer her New Age comments on the furnishing arrangements. Pandora first disclosed. (11 November)

Y REVIEW

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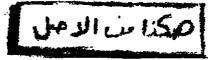
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Bryan MacLean

BRYAN MACLEAN, guitarist and vocalist and songwriter in the cult American psychedelic band Love, wrote the seminal Sixties classic "Alone Again Or" and recorded three albums still revered by critics and connoisseurs. Trivia fans only realised that the Californian musician had nearly been one of the Monkees last August when Channel 4 aired Ian MacMillan's fine documentary Daydream Believers.

Born in Los Angeles in 1947, MacLean drifted towards the music scene and became a roadie for the Byrds. In the mid-Sixties, the tall blond musician would hang out at Ben Frank's, a 24-hour diner on Hollywood's Sunset Strip. As he recalled on television, "Bobby Jameson, a friend of mine, told me about the audition for the Monkees. He said: You ought to go down there, you're what they're looking for. You'll make \$750 a week.' That was an enormous amount. But he didn't tell me that it was comedy," explained MacLean. "So I went down there being the hip. street-wise guy, gravelling my voice, and it was wrong. Thank God it was the wrong approach. They got the impression I was a seriously drugged-out guy.

In retrospect, MacLean didn't dwell too much on his failure to edge out Peter Tork or Mike Nesmith and take part in American television's manufactured answer to the Fab Four Disparagingly, he claimed: "The Monkees were extremely square. They just jumped on the bandwagon. It had nothing to do with what was really going on. It was the Keystone Cops of rock. I didn't belong in the Monkees or, if I did, I'm still in denial about it." He joked somewhat nervously: "If I ever find out that I belonged in the Monkees, then I will probably have a legitimate nervous breakdown," and went on, "I think that I really belonged in something that involved pioneering music, something that wasn't popular yet. My goal for my music was always timelessness."

MacLean more than succeeded in this aim with Love, a band who rank alongside the Velvet Underground and the Ramones when it comes to influencing successive generations of musicians (REM, House of Love, the Stone Roses). Again, MacLean met Arthur Lee

at Ben Frank's. The Memphis-born musician had already cut a single the American Four with the guitarist Johnny Echols. The three joined forces and, adding the rhythm section of Johnny Fleckenstein and Don Conka (soon replaced by the bassist Ken Forssi and drummer Alban "Snoopy" Pfisterer), became the Grass Roots.

Having made their live début at Brave New World in LA in April 1965, the group changed its name to avoid

Given the flower-power movement emerging on the West Coast, the five musicians opted for Love and attracted the attention of Jac Holzman in early 1966. The entrepreneur had already established Elektra Records on the East Coast as the natural home of the folk scene with artists like Judy Collins but he wanted to move the label towards the rock underground. Love's unique brand of folk and demented psychedelia more than fitted the bill. "Thirty seconds into their version of 'Hey Joe', I knew this was the group I was looking for." claimed Holzman, who would later sign the Doors at Lee's instigation.

Love became the first rock band on Elektra and released a stunning version of Burt Bacharah and Hal David's "My Little Red Book" (from What's New Pussycat?) in April 1966. Following their appearance on American Bandstand, the single and ensuing debut album (simply entitled Love) both made the US Top 60 and the following 45, the frantic "Seven and Seven Is", did even better, reaching No 33 in September. "Love was what is lovingly referred to as an underground, a garage band. We had a following but it was underground. It wasn't meant to appeal to as many people as the Monkees' music was," reflected MacLean, who wrote the lovely "Softly To Me" on the first album.

Wearing ribbons in his hair, the more introspective MacLean was the ideal foil to Arthur Lee's frenzied genius and Love became darlings of the hippie scene. Living in their communal Los Angeles "Castle" (actually a decaying mansion previously used as a horror movie set), they recruited Tjay Cantrelli on flute and Michael Stuart on drums while "Snoopy" Pfisterer moved to keyboards to flesh out the group's rich- others couldn't cut it." Lee sacked



album chart in the UK while "Alone Again Or", the eerie, evanescent MacLean composition, entered the US Hot 100. Covered by the Damned in 1986, "Alone Again Or" proved the swansong of the original Love as the idiosyncratic Lee kept playing mind games with MacLean.

During a very strange interview in 1992, Lee told me: "We were competing a bit like Lennon and Mc-Cartney to see who would come up with the better song. It was part of our charm. Everybody had different behaviour patterns. Eventually, the

'I don't think I could cope with even the minimal fame I experienced. It was difficult to stay balanced. To be honest, it almost killed me, the notoriety I had'

er sound on Da Capo, their second album (February 1967). MacLean's ther this nor "Que Vida" could match their previous success, especially as the group hardly ever toured away from their California base.

Following Pfisterer and Cantrelli's departure, Love set to work on the ambitious Forever Changes, their third album issued in November 1967, just as their cult status was reaching British shores. Hailed a masterpiece and still namechecked confusion with another Grass Roots as one of the best-ever albums, For-(of "Let's Live For Today" fame). ever Changes reached the Top 30

the rest of the band and assumed the Love mantle from mid-1968. He jazzy "Orange Skies" was the B-side briefly worked with Jimi Hendrix and

> MacLean also fell from grace. "I don't think I could cope with even the minimal amount of fame that I experienced. It was difficult to stay balanced. To be honest, it almost killed me just to have the notoriety that I had. To have my face more wellknown would have been pathogenic. I don't know if I could have lived through it," he later admitted.

Tve had a lot of experiences that would have killed most people: drug overdoses, felony arrests. I was in-

vited to Sharon Tate and Roman Polanski's house the night that the Mansons showed up. I had a penchant for putting myself 100 per cent in whatever I was doing, wrong or right. And there are consequences. If you have the greatest drug and what you feel is the most euphoric experience and it ends, then you're in trouble. You think you're getting on to the train and you're gonna get off at the next stop. But before you realise it, you're strapped to the front of a runaway train until it crashes. And when it crashes, you don't even know if you're gonna come out. I just

simply didn't have another runaway

train experience left in me."

A proposed solo deal fell through when Jac Holzman pronounced the MacLean demos "too fragmented". MacLean bounced back for a while but, before completing an album for Capitol Records, he quit the business in 1970. Seven years later, his old nemesis Arthur Lee tempted him out of retirement for a Love tour with the future Knack drummer Bruce Gary, MacLean enlisted for a further Southern California reunion outing (immortalised on Rhino's Love Live

"I wasn't doing well. My mother had been converted watching Bill Graham on television, she was praying for me. One night, in a botel room in New York, I just prayed, cried out to the Lord and said: if you're real. I'm gonna give my life to you because I'm afraid I'm gonna destroy myself. I ended up walking away from the business at that point," confessed MacLean, who became a sepulchral presence, not unlike the Beach Boys' Brian Wilson.

By the Nineties, the erratic Arthur Lee was displaying paranoid tendencies and symptoms of Parkinson's disease. In 1996, following several arrests and convictions, he was jailed for 12 years for threatening behaviour with a firearm.

Bryan MacLean crawled back from the wreckage. His half-sister, Maria McKee, made several records with Lone Justice, including a song by MacLean, "Don't Toss Us Away" in 1985, which three years later became a Top 10 country music hit for Patty Loveless. In 1997, the Sundazed label released If You Believeln, a collection of solo acoustic MacLean demos culled from the Sixties, Seventies and Eighties. His odd quavering vocals remained as compelling as ever and also came to the fore in his born-again incarnation.

"I started making music again when I felt comfortable to move back into writing without violating my stand for Christ," Bryan MacLean told Ian MacMillan. "Love grows in me when I proclaim all that my Lord has done. I'm now writing worship music that's presented in an ethereal genre. Celtic, spacy, no guitars. I call worship music.

"If a person is a Satanist or a Buddhist or a Hindu, they will be able to listen to this music and not be put off by it because it's the universal longing to be in the spirit realm that's being expressed."

PIERRE PERRONE

Bryan MacLean, guitarist. singer and songwriter: born Los Angeles 25 September 1946; died Los Angeles 25 December 1998.

Jean-Claude **Forest**

fantasy Fifties when science-fiction comic strips were rigidly researched in the interplanetary knowledge of the time. Dan Dare, Eagle's "Pilot of the Future", was rooted solidly in his creation by the Rev Marcus Morris as Daniel Dare, Padre of the Future. One of Dare's space team, Professor Peabody, christened Jocelyn Mabel and known as "Prof", may have had a pretty face but the rest of her was covered in a spacesuit. In American comics Buck Rogers zoomed around the 21st century with a blonde lady called Allura, but legs apart (if you pardon the expression) she too was wrapped in head-hugging helmet and rocket-powered flying belt. It took the French, then as now the great porno-production country, to take the first pioneering steps into sexual space. The cartoonist was Jean-Claude Forest and his heroine was Barbarella.

Forest created "Barbarella" as a full-page serial strip (and strip is the operative word) for the Parisian magazine V, back in 1962. On sale in London after the Second World War, this picture paper was a popular buy for teenagers, carrying as it did spicy pin-ups, scantier-clad than their native counterparts. These were both photographic and drawn, the latter in a style somewhat sexier and livelier than in the English magazines of the day such as Men Only, Lilliput and Health and Efficiency.

The nearest thing in Britain to 'Barbarella" was Norman Pett's genuinely glamorous "Jane" in the Daily Mirror. But Jane never ventured into outer space. Forest's girl of tomorrow was truly liberated, needing no cumbersome spacesuit to survive in the vastness of space. A pair of droopy pantomime boots and an even droopier bikini was all she needed to protect herself from every spacial hazard from meteorites to monstrosities.

The strip gained huge popularity and in 1964 the first set of strips was reprinted as a book by the French publishers Frank Losfeld. Two years later Grove Press translated an edition for America. Meanwhile the French authorities, anxious that their country would not become the world's publishing centre for pornography once again, banned it. The US edition escaped



SEX IN space was no problem in the censure and Newsweek reviewed Forest's strip thus:

Cruising among the planets like a female James Bond, Barbarella van-quishes evil and rewards, in her own particular way, all the handsome men she meets in outer space. And whether she is tusting with Strikno the sadistic hunter, or turning her ray-gun on weird gelatipous monsters, she just cannot gelatipous monsters and the her same the same than the same seem to avoid losing part or all of her skin-tight spacesuit.

Forest was born in Le Perreux, a Parisian suburb, in 1930. At the age of 16 he attended the Ecole des Arts et Métiers in Paris, and whilst there he adapted Robert Louis Stevenson's novel The Black Arrow into a strip cartoon. In 1952 he became a staff cartoonist for the weekly boys' comic Vaillant, drawing two serial strips, "Pour la Honde", set in the prehistoric period, and "Copyright" which told the adventures of a fantastic animal. In 1955 Forest became the cover artist for several magazines, and took over the drawing for two popular strips of American ori-

gin: "Bicot", the French title for "Winnie Winkle", and "Charlot", the continuing cartoon adventures of Charlie Chaplin. Nineteen fifty-nine found him graduating from children's comics to newspaper strips when he joined the daily France-Soir.

In 1962, Forest created his classic "Barbarella". In style this is still one of the best-drawn strips in the fantasy genre, despite the total impossibility of the situations. Forest paid no attention at all to current scientific space research. Instead readers of V Magazine enjoyed Barbarella's imaginative circumstances and her pleasures of the flesh.

Barbarella was filmed in 1968 by Roger Vadim, and shot young Jane Fonda to international fame. She looked the perfect living reproduction of the bosomy, leggy lovely, and her adventure in a mad professor's orgasmic stimulator marks a high point in the development of sexy cinema. The film's look, a brilliant transference of strip-cartooning to live action, was due to Forest who Vadim hired to supervise its design.

Forest's cartoon career expanded enormously after the world-wide success of the film. He was made editor of a new comics magazine for adult readership, Chouchou, for which he created another girlie serial called "Baby Cyanide". In 1965 he created an animated cartoon series for French television. Again in his favourite mixture of sciencefiction and sexy girls, this featured a teenager called Marie Math.

Despite this enterprise Forest's career began to decline, perhaps bely on sex and sci-fi. Maybe real life space travel made such wild imaginings less popular with the public. However his creation of Barbarella as both cartoon and film ensures him a place in the pantheon of the great comic strippers of the century.

DENIS GIFFORD

Jean-Claude Forest, cartoonist: born Le Perreux, France 11 September 1930; married (one son); died 30 December 1998.

Roy Powell



players, published when he was in his prime in 1991, described Rov Powell as a "workaholic runner and tackler with under-estimated ballplaying skills". They could have gone on to say that he was one of the bestliked players of his generation; proof that the old sporting cliché, the gentle giant, really could survive and

thrive even in so unforgiving a game. Powell joined Leeds in 1983, from the St John Fisher junior club in his native Dewsbury, and within a couple of seasons was a regular member of their pack. From the start, his trademarks were his work-rate and his tackling - hard, low and scrupulously fair. If he had a failing, it was

A "WHO'S WHO" of rugby league that he never seemed particularly to enjoy hurting opponents; he did so, of course, but it was not the object of the exercise. A succession of coaches tried to put a little more "devil" into him, but had to admit. like Peter Fox, who relied on him for Leeds, Bradford and Yorkshire, that it just wasn't in his nature.

He prospered despite that, flowering into an impressive second-row forward in a Leeds team that was almost, but not quite, good enough to win things. With Paul Medley and David Heron, he made up a back row that was a good balance of running, creativity and tackling. Powell was the tackler and there were few better. He was first capped for Great

France, by Maurice Bamford in 1985, but it was under the coaching of Malcolm Reilly that he became a fixture in the Test team.

On the 1988 tour of Australia, he was one of the few British forwards to command respect and he shared in the euphoria of beating the Aussies for the first time in 10 years, when Great Britain defied all expectations to win 26-12 at the Sydney Football Stadium.

In 1990, he was an immensely popular member of the British party that first made a full-scale tour of Papua New Guinea. As a big, black player, Powell was an object of fascination to the local fans, who mobbed him

as almost an honorary fellow countryman made it a demanding few weeks, but he coped with the attention with his customary cheerfulness, "Physically he was a Goliath." said Reilly, "I told him to walk about stripped to the waist to intimidate them, but they loved him."

Powell also figured on the New Zealand leg of that tour, as well as the home series against Australia including the victory at Wembley – later that same year. He made his final Test appearance, again as a substitute, against France in 1991. A few months later, Peter Fox

signed him for Bradford Northern for £80,000, his departure from Leeds

Britain, as a substitute against wherever he went. Being regarded causing a storm of protest from their supporters. Fox knew what he would get from Powell and his efforts helped them into the final of the

Regal Trophy the following season.

For the third time in that com-

petition, Powell was on the losing side: indeed, the Yorkshire Cup with Leeds in 1988-89 remained his only domestic honour until earlier this year. That was when, following a stint. with Featherstone, he helped Batley as a player or as a person. - without a trophy for over 40 years to win the inaugural Trans-Pennine final against Oldham when he was unconscious for 20 minutes.

This winter, Powell was on the move again, following his great 27 December 1998.

friend Deryck Fox, with whom he played at St John Fisher, Bradford, Featherstone and Batley, as well as for Great Britain, to Rochdale, where, at the age of 33, he was going to help with the coaching as well as play.

It was whilst walking across a field to start a training session that he collapsed and died, a piece of news that will have ruined Christmases wherever anyone knew Roy Powell

DAVE HADFIELD

Cup. He caused great concern in the Roy Colin Powell, rugby league player: born Dewsbury, West Yorkshire 30 April 1965; married (one son, one daughter); died Rochdale

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

BIRTHS

CRITCHLOW: On 11 December 1998, at home, Ide Hill, Kent, to Sarah and Julian, a son, Robert James, a brother for Daniel and Megan.

"NOTES" return on Monday 4 Janu-ary: the LAW REPORT / CASE SUMMARIES on Monday 11 January

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

Mr V. R. Golding and Miss V. E. Heller The engagement is announced between Vincent, elder son of Mr and Mrs E. Golding, of Canterbury, and Vivienne, elder daughter of Mr G. Heller, of Winchester, and Mrs S. Heller, of Southampton.

Mr M. J. Tomlinson and Miss F. V. Mynors The engagement is announced between Michael,

elder son of Dr Howard and Dr Heather Tomlinson, of Harley Court, Hereford, and Frances, second daughter of Sir Richard and Lady Mynors, of Treago, St Weonards, Herefordshire.

BIRTHDAYS

Dr Jack Birks, former managing director of BP, 79; Mr Alister Campbell, rugby player, 39; Lord Colwyn, dental surgeon and jazz trumpeter, 57; Miss Valentina Cortese, actress, 75; Mrs Christine

Crawley, MEP, 49; Mr Richard Gibson, actor, 44; Lord Kingsland QC, former MEP 57; Baroness Lloyd of Highbury, paediatrician, 71; Sir Albert McQuarrie, former MP, 80; Miss Zena Marshall, actress, 72; Dr James Merriman, former Chairman, National Computing Centre, 84; Mr James Moorbouse, MEP, 75; Col Patrick Porteous VC, 81; Mr Lawrence Rowe, cricketer, 50; Mr J. D. Salinger, writer, 80; Lord Swansea, marksman, 74.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Lorenzo de Medici, statesman, 1449; Maria Edgeworth, novelist, 1767; Arthur Hugh Clough, poet, 1819; Sir James George Frazer, anthropologist, 1854; Edward Morgan Forster, novelist, 1879; Joe Orton (John Kingsley Orton), playwright, 1933. Deaths: Johann Christian Bach, composer, 1782; Sir Edwin Landseer Lutyens, architect, 1944; Maurice Chevalier, entertainer, 1972: Lord David Cecil, writer, 1986; Lafayette Ronald Hubbard (L. Ron Hubbard), pro-

On this day: the importation of slaves into the US was forbidden, 1808; Britain proclaimed sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, 1833; London was divided into 10 postal districts, 1858; Queen Victoria was proclaimed Empress of India, 1877; the first postal orders were issued in Great Britain, 1881; in Britain, people of 70 and over became eligible for old age pensions, 1909; Labour exchanges came into operation, 1910; the British Board of Film Censors was given powers to operate, 1913; the

pounder of Scientology, 1986.

lished, 1923; British railways were nationalised, 1948; the European Economic Community came into being, 1958; Great Britain, the Irish Republic and Denmark joined the EEC, 1973. Today is New Year's Day and the Feast Day of St Almachius or Telemachus, St Clarus, St Concordius of Spoleto, St Eugendus or Oyend, St. Euphrosyne, St Felix of Bourges, St Fulgentius of Ruspe, St Mochua or Cuan, St Odilo, St Peter of Atroa and St William of Saint Benignus.

Soviet Union was estab-

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS. MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Pub closed? Try the minicab office

ONE OF the marvellous things about alcohol is that it lands you in the strangest circumstances, which you accept as perfectly normal at the time. Until the next morning, when you think, "How did we end up in a bowling alley with that horse?"

This is why New Year's Eve is often less debauched than its image. The drinking is planned, expected and excused. For most of us, our most memorable session probably took place on a date that we can't remember, lasting 14 hours and ending on a nightbus with someone who claimed to be a professional wrestler, after we'd popped out in the afternoon for a cauliflower.

The festive Leicester Square party which I was going to write about began to disintegrate at about half past two, until there were a dozen of us left. It's the crackpot licensing law which make it so hard to leave a bar that's still serving after 11. You pathetically beg for a last drink from a dismissive landlord, who carries on emptying his till with the nonchalant cruelty of a medieval judge ignoring a peasant's plea to not be burned

at the stake. You consider the people who aren't lucky enough to be in a place that's still serving and, using the same logic as mothers who tell their children to eat their carrots because there are starving people in the world, you decide that to not have another would

Suddenly, you look around and the bustling crowd has gone. In its place are a handful of people collecting coats, and a beleaguered barman stacking glasses. It was at this point, dispersing onto the street at last week's party, that someone said, "Does anyone fancy a pint?"

What a magnificent thing to say when you've been drinking for the last six hours; worthy of the line in The Hustler when, after 24 hours of consecutive pool, Paul Newman says to Minnesota Fats, "Let's play some pool.

This is the point at which sessions turn. While in every other area of life I discount anything mystic, with drinking this point revolves entirely around fate. Once, on a crowded train, I realised I was squashed next to an old friend, who

insisted I join him for a drink. We stopped after three pints but, as we were leaving, bumped into my friend's next-door neighbour, who was returning a stepladder he'd borrowed from the barman. And he insisted that we both join him for a drink. I have no idea what, but something that night was guiding us to a paralytic stupor and there was no point in fighting it. Let's see Carol

Vorderman explain that! And last week, at 3am, we stumbled into a minicab office. slurringly asking whether they knew anywhere that was still open. "Why, yes," answered the cab controller, "you could come in here."

So we each paid four pounds,

and walked up some rickety wooden stairs into a room that stank of damp and was pitch black, except for the flickering multicoloured rays springing from the fruit machine in the corner. Any sober person passing through the door would have concluded that they'd been kidnapped by the Hezbollah, and that they were destined to spend the next seven years chained to the fruit machine (though Terry Waite wasn't asked to pay

MARK STEEL



ON LOCATION

four quid first). But we were already drunk so, spotting a barely visible Rastafarian who was dancing despite there being no music, selling tins of Hofmeister at three guid each, we all thought, "What a result!", and congratulated ourselves.

None of us, or the other 15 or so already there, thought it at all strange that this place existed above a minicab office. What would have had to happen for us to think something was odd? Somebody releasing a flock of canaries, perhaps? Mel Gibson

uni-cycling? And who were these people sat cosily in a dark corner, as if it were their local? Maybe they'd been there for hundreds of years, having sold their soul in the Middle Ages, destined to drink one tin of Hofmeister every hour in the

dark for all eternity.

It seems so unlikely, as the indecipherable chatter bounces past, that normal life can be carrying on. Right now, as you're fumbling for the money to buy a tin for a bloke who reckons he knows Peter O'Toole, people are sleeping and snoring and dreaming, unaware that a few miles away there's a rickety staircase which leads, Narnialike, to another world. It seems quite plausible that upon leaving, you'll wish someone a happy new year, and they'll reply. "But it's August 5th, and the year is 2036."

These thoughts occur because 4am drunk is very different from 11pm drunk. The stage of falling over and demanding more chilli sauce is replaced by a misty haze of contemplation. By this time, with great application and patience, odd tasks can be accomplished. I remember

studying the eager flashing lights which were frenetically demanding an urgent decision about which blurred and slowly rocking grapes or cherries I should nudge. Instead of mindlessly thwacking a button at random, like an 11pm drunk. I carefully surveyed the terrain as if it was a crucial move in a game of chess, eventually securing a line of grapes and £1.60 for a £31 stake. "I've taken this place to

the cleaners," I thought.
Another aspect of being 4am drunk in a bizarre venue, is the smug satisfaction at having stayed the distance. As we raised the Hofmeister deliberately and proudly to our lips, everyone in that room felt a bond, as if we'd canoed together up the Amazon.

Who knows what internal clock finally lifts you from the broken chair and propels you home. But at some time around five I gave up, wondering when this place actually shut. And if, when it happens, the barman shouts, "Come along now please, it's 20 to seven, get it down you." While customers groan, "Can't we have one last

one for the road?" So I climbed into a minicab

ordered from the Hezbollah room, with a fellow drinker I'd never met before who was mumbling "Peckham" at the driver. "Whereabouts in Peckham?" the driver asked. "I don't know," said my companion "You're the bloody cah driver. Don't you know?" But maybe the place has a

future. All it would take is a visiting celebrity or two to stumble in there, and they'd probably imagine it was the most happening gig in London. Within a year there'd be a chain of chic minicab-theme nightclubs across America called POBs, owned by Sylvester Stallone. Stars like Cher would walk in and scream, Oh that lighting, that sort of can't-see-buggerall effect, is simply to die for." Club managers would scour London for authentic rickety stairs. Hofmeister would be sold in frosty glass bottles with a slice of tomato in the top for eight quid each, and the Unique Selling Point would be that you never actually got the drink. Instead. whenever you asked for it, the waiter would say "All right mate. calm down, be with you in about another five minutes."

STARS AND PLANETS: JANUARY

BROTHER CADFAEL might be the best person to assist astronomers perplexed by the "mystery of the missing medieval supernova". It seems that an exploding star of the 13th century should have been as brilliant as the full moon yet no one reported

The first clues to this ancient event came late in 1998, when the Rosat orbiting observatory picked up an unexpected source of natural X-rays in the constellation Vela. This hot bubble of gas looked like the remains of a supernova (an exploding star). Astronomers already knew hundreds of these "supernova remnants", so the new discovery at first looked like just one more

But this supernova remnant, known only by the catalogue number J08520-462, proved to be rather unusual. First, it was so small and hot that the explosion must have taken place very recently in astronomical terms, where most things take millions of years to happen. Secondly, Bernd Aschenbach, of Germany's Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics, has found that this supernova remnant lies comparatively near the Sun, only a few hundred light years away (right on our doorstep, in a galaxy which is 100,000 light years

When a supernova explodes, it shines more brilliantly than 500 million suns, and for several weeks. Aschenbach and his colleagues calculate that the supernova that blew the bot bubble J08520-462 should have appeared in the century AD1200-1300. and it would have shone as brilliantly as the full moon: bright enough to read a newspaper by, if newspapers had been

invented then. Did such a star actually appear in our skies? There are no records of such a brilliant object from Western Europe, even

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colleagues in a Swiss monastery did record a dimmer supernova in the year AD1006. Even more telling, Chinese astronomers of the time scrutinised the sky every night for astrological portents. They reported half a dozen supernovae. none anywhere as bright as the full moon. As well as the supernova of 1006, the Chinese saw exploding stars in 1054, 1181, 1572 and 1604. The remains of all these supernovae have been identified, and none of them was responsible for the remnant J08520-462. We can certainly

conclude there was no star as bright as the full moon in the 13th century. Paul Murdin, of the British National Space Centre, says these negative

valuable as Sherlock Holmes's "dog that didn't bark in the night". They prove that a star can explode without a brilliant display of light.

Most supernovae are stars at the end of their lifetime. As the core at the very centre collapses, the outer parts of the star detonate and blast out into space. A few supernovae are something different: a small star, called a white dwarf, that blows apart like a massive cosmic nuclear bomb. Both are hrilliant sights.

Murdin suggests the explosion that gave rise to J08520-462 must have been different. Perhaps it was the explosion of a star even smaller than a white dwarf, of a type known as a neutron star. A neutron star

	DIARY		
2nd	2.50am	Full moon	
3 rd	1pm	Earth at perihelion	
	-	(closest to Sun);	
		10pm maximum of	
		Quadrantid meteor	
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9th	2.23pm	Moon at last quarte	
17 th	3.47pm	New moon	
24th	7.16pm	Moon at first quart	

might put all its energy into flying shrapnel, instead of a brilliant fireball. Or it might have been a different kind of explosion altogether. Perhaps a neutron star was engulfed by a neighbouring black hole; the energypacked contents of the neutron star erupted into space, but little light escaped before the star's remains were swallowed up by the black hole.

So far, no definitive answer has emerged. But, one way or the other, the silence of medieval records is pointing us towards new discoveries at the cutting edge of astronomy.

WHAT'S UP: There are two full moons this month. Strictly speaking, a month is the period the moon the word itself derives from "moonth". But the interval between full moons is 29.5 days, so a calendar month can occasionally contain two full moons: the last one was July 1996

In the first week of the New Year, look out for the Quadrantid meteors, which reach a maximum on the night of 3-4 January. These shooting stars spread out from a point near the tail of the Great Rear (Ursa Major). The meteor shower is named after the constellation of Quadrans Muralis (the mural quadrant - an archaic astronomical instrument which has long since been abandoned).

Jupiter and Saturn are well visible in the evening sky, over to the south-west. Jupiter is brighter than any of the stars, while Saturn – to its left – is dimmer and distinctly yellow.

Around midnight, reddish Mars rises in the east. At the moment, it's no more brilliant than many stars, but is getting brighter as Earth and Mars head for closest approach in April. Towards the end of January, you may spot the most brilliant planet of all, Venus, low in the west after sunset. HEATHER COUPER AND

NIGEL HENBEST

The chilling knock that came twice

The avalanche deaths this week stirred painful memories of a father and brother lost in similar tragedies. By Nicola Barry

THE WAITING is the worst. Hearing of a climbing accident on the news, knowing a relative is out there. The terrible fear, the eternal waiting, the late night knock on the door, the un-

controllable panic.

I have heard that knock twice in my life. The first time was when my father died in the hills. The second when my an avalanche ~ almost identical to the one this week.

I was with a friend when I heard four young climbers from Kent had been killed in an avalanche on Aonach Mor, near Ben Nevis, and three had survived, buried under a few feet of snow for 16 hours.

I was embarrassed when my tears started to flow. My tragedies happened almost 20 years ago. I feel I should be over them by now. But I found myself falling into old habits: listening to how far the survivors had fallen; worldering how they had managed to cheat death when so many others had perished. I thought of the Corrie Of The Soldier, a valley at the top of Cairn Toul in the Cairngorms, where a small cairn has been fashioned out of weatherbeaten stones, put there in memory of my father,

Dr Claude Barry. In July 1979 he set out to tackle Cairn Toul with three friends. Always dismissive of Munro-baggers, he referred scornfully to their efforts as "bargain basement Munros", meaning those who drive up the first 2,000ft and only walk the remainder. Cairn Toul, he reckoned, was "the real thing": over 4,000ft and accessible only through prolonged physical ef-

The group reached the summit and had started to come down when one climber noticed my father was missing. (He had a heart condition and the climb had proved too taxing.)

The friend told me afterwards he had called out: "Where's Claude?" then, minutes later, he heard a shout. "I ran back," he said. "I suddenly saw Claude seated somewhat oddly on a rock at the top, his head thrown back and one eye open. He was dead. I tried heart massage, but at that temperature a person chills very quickly. I suppose I knew then there was no hope. We put his body into a bivvy bag with a label on it indicating we had gone for help."

That was at lunchtime. I remember the cold, uncomfortable feeling I had when the mountain referred to on the news that evening was the one my father had been on. They said the climber wouldn't be named until relatives had been



Richard Barry (main photo) carried on climbing mountains despite the death of his father, Claude

a year older then me, also a doc-

tor. After we lost our father I

asked him whether he would

stop climbing. He smiled and

I had only ever seen

avalanches on television. I

knew they involved a vast

amount of snow - the sort that

smashes heads against rocks

and pins bodies relentlessly to

cliff surfaces. I had also seen on

television the commotion

which follows one: police dogs

hopefully picking up a lost

climber's scent on the wind, the

helicopter rescue men risking

their lives in fiendish condi-

tions, rotor blades roaring.

stretchers, blankets and body

bags. But the horror when it

comes is far worse than any

I will never forget 15 Feb-

ruary 1982. It was, always will

be, the blackest day of my life.

I had such a strange feeling the

night before. I knew my brother

fleeting media image.

said: "It won't happen to me."

informed and this can take a brother I idolised - who was hours. The group have to get to a phone. That done, they have to decide their best course of action and each give an account to the police of what happened.

Still - it is so hard to take in when it's your door the police come to. "It's Dr Barry," they said. "He's been found on Cairn Toul. He's dead." After the police came the journalists and their interminable questions.

I have always liked climbers. They are adventurous, passionate people, rarely irresponsible, not normally the type to climb Ben Nevis in gym shoes. They know mounlaineering is a balancing act between risk and caution, between courage and daring and they know their survival depends on striking the right balance.

Lightning never strikes twice they say. But there were two climbers in my family - and it did. The second was Richard,

tives had been informed. It sounded so very pat. The fourth body was my brother's, yet the police car out-

side my house was the last thing I expected. I hope I never again have to experience the utter anguish which descended the minute I opened the door. That life-altering heart-stopping moment, I heard the mother of one of the young climbers killed this week put it so well: "You just know what they've come about."

hadn't returned to his flat. A friend who phoned tried to paci-

fy me. "He's probably stopped

for a meal... honestly, the

Next morning the moun-

tains hit the headlines – in a big

way, just like this week. Four

climbers dead - three on Ben Nevis - a fourth body found in

a corrie in Glencoe, a death

Bodach. No names until rela-

chances are one in a million."

Two policemen uttering those same words, all the more eerie a second time around: "It's Dr Barry - he's had an accident."

It was the only time in my life I have lost control. I was aware of myself screaming but it was as if this horror were happening to somebody else. The police had not even said what was wrong, but one of them shut the door while the other took me by the arm and told me Richard was dead. When they said he had fallen to his death 400ft down an icy rockface. I was glad

of the comfort of their presence. The journalists came out in full force this time. Seven of them arrived in taxis. Father and son, two doctors, both dying in the Scottish mountains - a great story! No words can describe that kind of intrusion

and at such a desolate moment. After a mountain death the family are so cut off from the nerve centre. All they can do is guess at what might have happened. I had so many questions but no answers: questions which went round and round in my head: had he felt any pain?

The police advised us against going to see Richard. His face was unrecognisable, they said. Yet I needed to say goodbye and will always regret my decision not to go. He was so special, my brother. Such an influence for good in my life. The truth is I miss him more now, not less, and, all the cliches are true. It is so hard to accept a death when you haven't had a chance to say goodbye. I go back to Glencoe sometimes, to pay my respects. It is an awesome place, of breathtaking beauty, desolate and wild. Not difficult to see why "Glencoe" translates as the Vale of Weeping.

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fice They can't do that. Oh yes they can!

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Welcome to a gripping tale about three wise men who've got Britain's panto industry all sewn up. By Meg Carter

ou may not know the names, but Jon Conway, Paul Elliott and Nick Thomas are the kings of panto. Oh yes they are! This triumvirate wields the power to send Sonia to Aberdeen and the Grumcan make a Gladiator's Christmas. They sustain many a flagging TV cathey produce around 30 of the country's 100 top pantomimes each year.

They joined forces to launch E&B/AMG Pantomimes 10 years ago, having spent the previous decade competing for the best venues and talent. Since then, they have doubled their share of the panto business and secured many of the "top" names for their shows. so venues within the M25 are easi-This year's line up includes Lesley Joseph's Fairy Bowbells at Nottingham; Melinda Messenger's Cinderella at Swansea, Lionel Blair, and who has the greatest clout.

David Essex, and Postman Pat (appearing simultaneously in Belfast and Lewisham).

It's a curious business with the traditions of men dressed as dames, leggy actresses playing principal boys, and "he's behind you" versus the sports personalities, soap stars bleweeds to Wolverhampton. They and Top 40 songs. But with millions of potential ticket sales and box office already up seven per cent this year, pantomime is big business, and managing it is a year-round affair.

Work begins each December, a year ahead, Elliott explains. At this point the horse-trading begins as theatre managers haggle over which production goes where with what star, while stars attempt to bag their favourite venue. Inevitably, lots of celebrities want to stay near London. est to cast. Where they actually end up comes down to where they were last year, who their co-stars will be

"It's like a huge jigsaw," he says. "We start out each year with plan A: by the time we reach plan P we've usually cracked it." Local tastes must be catered for "Roy Hudd is wonderful in Plymouth but I don't think he'd work so well in Birmingham where people want something more in your face, like Brian Conley." Cannon and Ball go down well up North, apparently. And the

chances of seeing Lionel Blair in

Belfast are slim.

Talent is selected to fulfil key audience expectations. "The enduring popularity of panto comes down to parents' confidence there's something in it for everyone," Thomas says. "Like all good Christmas puddings there's a set recipe: something fluffy for the kids, a comedian for the adults, 'legs' for the dads and old soap stars for the oldies." In other words: someone to laugh at, someone to fancy and someone

ence of Robin Askwith in Darlington, Brian Cant in Basingstoke and a Nolan in Torquay.

"It's about reassuring audiences," he adds. And, of course, raising a show's profile. Male soap stars are amongst the biggest draws this Christmas. Tickets are selling fast for Des Barnes from Coronation Street. And although Tiffany's accident is keeping last year's panto success story-Grant from EastEnders - in Albert Square this Christmas, Nick Cotton and Dirty Den are

doing great business. Audience tastes, however, are volatile. While surviving members of TV's Crossroads cast and weatherman Ian McCaskill still command rapturous applause, interest in Glodictors, weather girls and Neighbours is on the wane. Second-guessing who the punters will like takes more than picking off current TV favourites, Thomas insists: "There's you'd forgotten - hence the pres- a big difference between what the

public wants and what TV executives think they want. Bobby Davro, for example, is extremely popular with live audiences throughout the UK."

E&B/AMG owns 30 different sets of equipment and more than 20,000 costumes, and part of the trick is sorting out which goes where. This year they're producing seven Cinderellas, five Peter Pans, three Aladdins, three Jack & the Beanstalks, two Snow Whites, two Robin Hoods, two Dick Whittingtons and one each of Beauty and the Beast, Goldilocks, Robinson Crusoe and The Wizard of Oz. Only two productions are brand new - costing £250,000 each – all the rest have been

"refurbished". "Peter Pan, Snow White and The Wizard of Oz are the core 'book' shows - we rarely change them whoever is in them," says Conway. But all are re-written each year to add topical twists. And with other shows, like Cinderella and Snow White.

scripts are tailored to cater specifically for the personalities involved: "You might have Nora Batty as the fairy godmother - very different to Barbara Windsor."

They stick with these stories because audiences love them. Thomas insists, pointing to his attempt at Robinson Crusoe in Outer Space which came unstuck when it coincided with the cinema release of ET. "It was a financial flop," he confides. "The experience dissuaded me from trying anything so radical again." A strong central storyline is key, he adds: "Limp stories stringing together a few turns is not what audiences want."

Recruiting and deploying the 1,500 or so artistes, performers and backstage people takes a campaign planned with military precision. After the big name acts are secured, comes the search for supporting players. Talent scouts trawl local dance schools for tap-dancing tots.

And the race begins to sign up the best professional dwarves who, despite periodic attempts by the politically correct to ban them, remain an enduring part of panto, and command up to £1,000 a week.

Corny, definitely. Passe, perhaps. But panto is thriving, the threesome claim. "It's a truly interactive entertainment in a way TV still struggles to be," says Conway. "And it's the kind of entertainment broadcasters just aren't interested in putting on telly any more. London TV executives believe it's too rarefied. But people love it."

Around five million of us will see a panto this Christmas – that's one in ten of the population. Thomas adds: "For many people it will be their only trip to the theatre this year. For many kids it will be their first.

"This is not art, it's entertainment for the unwashed. It's panto. And it's panto that keeps many local theatres alive."

Dark Ages brought to light

A RECENT best-selling account of the medieval mind, written primarily to introduce North American readers to the enlightening force of the European Renaissance, repeats a stubborn prejudice against those composers working at the time of Leonardo and Michelangelo. "Music, still lost in the blurry mists of the Dark Ages, was a Renaissance laggard; the motets, psalms and Masses heard each Sabbath... fall dissonantly on the ears of those familiar with the soaring orchestral works which would captivate Europe in the centuries ahead, a reminder that in some respects one age will forever remain inscrutable to others." The view of popular history is clearly not reflected in the tastes of a near-capacity audience at St John's, Smith Square, there to hear a short, but exquisite programme of works long since retrieved

CLASSICAL TALLIS SCHOLARS

VOCAL ENSEMBLE CHRISTMAS CONCERT ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE LONDON

from obscurity and presented unashamedly by the Tallis Scholars as timeless master-

Peter Phillips, who established his vocal ensemble in Oxford in the early 1970s, has done more than any other performer to cut through the inscrutability of late medieval sacred music. He employs singers who have the technique and confident self-belief necessary to deliver apparently endless polyphonic lines without the safety wire of vibrato, their corporate intonaperfection as anything pro-

Tallis Scholars' approach has drawn criticism from those, myself included, who find unrelenting tonal purity and the avoidance of openly passionate singing often at odds with aspects of the music itself. But there is a persuasive beauty in their work that captivates newcomers to early vocal music while setting aside purist arguments about matters of pitch or word-painting. It is precisely this pristine quality, whether on disc or in concert, that has helped narrow the perceived gap between "Dark Age dissonances" and more recent mu-

duced by an earthly choir. The

sical glories. Thomas Tallis almost certainly crafted one of his most sublime works, the "Christmas Mass" Puer notus est Nobis, during the turbulent reign of Mary Tudor. It providtion and blend as close to ed the substance in the first half of the Tallis Scholars' concert.

prefaced by a flowing tenorvoice account of the chant of the same name and crafted to highlight the music's austere beauty. The tiniest moment of false production or a misplaced consonant here registered like a pop on a scratched record, one of the penalties of such disciplined singing but a magnificent guarantee of total concentration and a particular boon in the floated soprano delivery of the Benedictus.

The second half was given over to Marian music, with two works by continental composers framed by pieces from the insular pre-Reformation English tradition. Those in search of spiritual solace were well provided for here, especially so with Victoria's eightpart "Ave Maria" and the incredibly ornate, richly sonorous Salve Regina setting

by William Cornysh. ANDREW STEWART

Ideas, ideals and ideologies

IDEOLOGIES OF one sort or another dominated last Monday night's all-Richard Strauss Barbican concert by John Boyden's New Queen's Hall Orchestra, under Wyn Morris. First, there was the Orches tra's nut-brown texture, facilitated by gut - or "wire-wound gut" - strings and turn-of-thecentury brass and woodwind instruments. The general idea, as has often been stated, is to present a palatable - and authentic - alternative to the louder, harsher and less flexible profile paraded by most modern-instrument orchestras. The choice of Wyn Morris as Principal Conductor seems to me ideal, given Morris's obvious sympathy for interpretative "times past" and his penchant for broadly paced though inwardly emotive musical statements. In Death and Transfiguration, Morris coaxed some glowing string lines for the closing transfiguration section, though I would have welcomed even more of the portamento (expressive sliding from one note to the next) that has on other occasions proved such an attractive aspect of the Orchestra's play-

ing style. Earlier on in the

piece, Morris's obvious good in-

tentions were thwarted by im-

precise orchestral execution,

CLASSICAL RICHARD STRAUSS NEW QUEEN'S HALL ORCHESTRA BARBICAN, LONDON

suspect wind tuning and a frumpish orchestral profile that suggests a fairly urgent need for extra rehearsal time.

The finest orchestral items featured soprano Claire Rutter (replacing Margaret Price) in four songs Op 27 and the celebrated Four Last Songs of 1948. Indeed, it would be difficult to imagine a more haunting account of the post-Wagnerian orchestral preface to Ruhe, meine Seele. Morgen enjoyed some delicious solo violin work from concert-master Robert Gibbs and a trance-like projection of the text from Rutter, especially the line "Mute, we shall look into each other's eyes," while the ethereally trilling winds that hover around the closing pages of "Im Abendrot" brought the concert to an atmospheric close.

The other "ideological" slafit concerned the longest piece in the programme, Strauss's elegiac Metamorphosen for 23 solo strings. Earlier in the dinarily expressive. The evening, in a controversial but orchestral layout had violins to fascinating pre-concert lec- the left, violas centre-stage



Wyn Morris: a penchant for broadly paced statements

ture, Matthew Boyden (John's and cellos and basses on the son) conjectured how this most profound of Strauss's works might be seen, in some doomed Führer. Boyden's claims that Strauss was pro-National Socialist, and that his "collaboration" was prompted more by ideology than material interest, will not have pleased everyone. Morris directed an intensely voiced reading of the score, and while certain inner parts were ill-defined, much of the solo playing was extraor-

right, and the plan worked well. Metamorphosen can, on occasion, sound like an respects, as a memorial to the extended whinge, but here its contrapuntal workings and contemplative mood were effectively realised. The concert had opened with the adorable Capriccio sexiel dist also opens Strauss's last opera, and that too couff or Althoun isical good rease of a tricker, worthy enterprise - though mount it comes to tall orchestral execution ar extra spot of cleaning and tightening would not come amiss.

ROB COWAN



Magnus Mills joins 'The Independent'

IN SATURDAY'S WEEKEND REVIEW

The Booker and Whitbread Prize shortlisted author begins his new radio column on tomorrow's Arts page

MUSIC

The road to nowhere

Britain's live music scene isn't what it used to be. Why? Bands don't serve their time on stage like they used to. A government task force is reporting on the problem next week. But is it too late? By Alex Webb

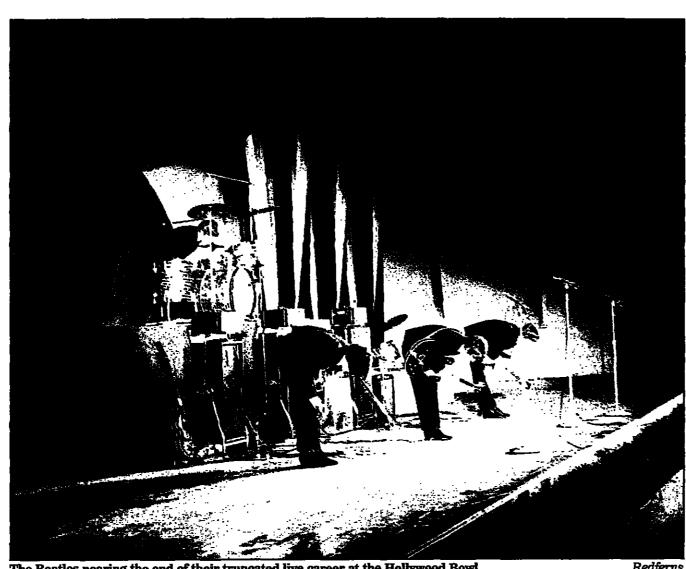
rguably, The Beatles are to blame: they usually are. The Beatles were the first group in the history of poplar music to elect not to play live. By doing so, they freed themselves to use the recording studio as another instrument and make the audacious musical statements of Revolver and Sgt Pepper; but they also broke the organic, per-forming link with the audience and established a new hierarchy of artistic priorities. In this sense, the Spice Girls – who didn't gig until they had had a number one hit are their direct heirs.

Yet the Beatles' expertise was built on live work, on gruelling nights in Hamburg and the long tours of the early Sixties. "Our best work was never recorded," Lennon told Rolling Stone in 1970, "in Liverpool, Hamburg and other dance halls what we generated was fantastic... there was nobody to touch us in Britain."

Where will today's young bands get that kind of experience? After a shaky year for the music business, it is timely that the Music Industry Forum - a panel of the great and the good that includes Simply Red's Mick Hucknall and Dennis Scard, the general secretary of the Musicians' Union - examine the neglected roots of the industry: live music.

When, in May last year, the Creation boss Alan McGee said the music industry was "on its arse and dying", his apocalyptic predictions could be refuted by steady sales stats. But hear any group of music executives in private and the concerns are real: over the longevity of acts, the standards of songwriting, the apparent inability of most contemporary groups to produce "catalogue", ie the long-selling works that recoup record company advances. Could the poor state of the live circuit explain

some of these failures? Andrew Roachford, eponymous group has built its following on extensive gigging, puts it like this: "You can practise and practise and practise but you have to go and actually be in a committed situation in order to perfect your craft." Ian Croal has promoted for more than 20 years at Manchester's Band on the Wall: "It's difficult to prove, but I'm sure it affects how people play. Every musician knows there's nothing like the real thing, and if the best musicians are not getting opportunities to perform, the highest quality levels are going to drop."



The Beatles nearing the end of their truncated live career at the Hollywood Bowl

Until very recently, the rigours of the road were part of almost every musician's apprenticeship, where technique and stagecraft were learnt, and new ideas tested to destruction. Notwithstanding the crucial role of recordings, the history of 20thcentury popular music is a history of gigs and venues - the Cotton Club, Million's Playhouse, Birdland, the Grand Ole Opry, the

Fillmore East, CBGBs, the 100 Club, Eric's and so on. And, likewise, a history of those unsung risk-takers, the promoters.

One problem for promoters today is simply that there are so many other entertainments available. Peter Whitehead of The Band Register is a long-time watcher of the scene. "What has changed from the Sixties, Sev-

are fewer people going to live music," he says. "The figures just are not working so well, and that is down to factors such as computer games and dance music." Add some high-profile cancellations during last summer's festival season and promoting looks like a loser's bet,

Cavern, the Roundhouse, the enties and Eighties is that there fundamentally wrong with the economics of live music. At the It's hard to escape the conclusion that there's something know that tracking down gigs is

top end - big halls and stadium gigs - touring now relies heavily on sponsorship or record company support. And at the other end, things are no better. "I now dread the idea of getting a band together to go out on the road," admits Ashley Slater, leader of funk/dance act Freakpower. "I

and incremental, and use existing promoters' expertise. Live music is something that many support in the abstract, like eating broccoli or paying taxes. The Department of Culture, Media and Sport has already registered one major political suc-cess on behalf of the music industry - creating a package for musicians as part of the Government's New Deal. How complimentary it would be if on 11 January the submissions of Mick Hucknall et al resulted in some im-provement in conditions for

the promoters and musicians

who feed the industry with talent

- and what an effective refutation

of the charge of industry shorttermism that would be.

going to be a nightmare. Below

the level of record company support it's very difficult. After a cou-

ple of years on the road we were

still getting £400 or £500 a gig. I

like having a band - I was born

One culprit is the "pay-to-

play" culture, in which bands

desperate for exposure play for nothing - or actually pay - in the

hope of attracting the capricious

attentions of the A&R community. "We did a survey of listings for one month in Manchester," re-

ports Croal, "and we found about

200 gigs. Ninety nine of these were indie or pop showcases.

where if it's not pay-to-play it's pretty close to it. And the dream

of having loads of A&R men wait-

ing around to sign you seems to

ed. Recently the Musicians' Union

launched "Gig-right UK" to help

identify and encourage good

venues. "It's about venues with

fair policies, no pay-to-play, a de-

cent PA, proper accounting. There

are about 25 at the moment,"

says Dennis Scard. "We are also

trying to get some funding for

But well-meaning interven-

tions in live music promotion

can actually be damaging if mis-

judged. Tim Parsons, director of

the promotion organisation MCP

notes: "Millions are being spent

on building new facilities which

don't serve contemporary music

at all well. There are major ac-

countancy companies preying on

municipal authorities, putting to-

gether business plans which

make no sense whatsoever - and

getting lottery grants on that

basis, creating municipal white

elephants." Clearly, the need is for

support and subsidy which do not

damage the fragile ecology of the

live scene - which suggests that

effective remedies will be local

them, to establish a circuit."

Remedies have been attempt-

be a bit of a myth.

to do it - but I can't afford it."

LYRIC SHEETS

MARTIN NEWELL

A poll of Radio 1's all time top 100 has finally kissed goodbye to the old rock classics. The only two chestnuts in the Top 20 are John Lennon's "Imagine" and Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody". The old guard have been deposed by artists such as The Verve, Massive Attack and REM



The Old Guard

They grew long hair for your sort Kids. Pah! What do you know? In a flared be-denimed heaven Does age begin to show As She puts on Cat Stevens And He puts on The Who? They can't stand all the new stuff They go with Radio 2 And it's all got far too frantic Since the beat went up a gear They remember buying Stairway But do not shed a tear

Salute the new Top Hundred Goodbye to the old guard Who cares what Radio 1 says They've always tried too hard? One stop behind the fashions And strictly anodyne We eschewed it in the old days For Radio Caroline

And songs we took as anthems Which our parents called a noise Gave export figures vigour And knighthoods to the boys Remastered but redundant Our album tracks and singles The cris-de-coeur of mopheads Are advertising jingles

10 miles (1997)

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We rejoin them on the dancefloor At an age when we should slow down For a heart-attack watusi At some tragic Sixties hoedown The thing about pop classics is They won't bear carbon-dating Give it two decades my dears Your cardigans are waiting.

KEEPING IT LIVE IN 1999

Tim Parsons, director, MCP I want to see new technology working in our favour. The promoter has gone further and further down the food chain: with new digital technology we have a chance

to wrest some of the initiative back. An ISDN line changes a venue into a broadcast studio.

lan Croal, director, Band on the Wall All promotion of music below a certain level is a kind of charitable activity, and the removal of VAT from tickets would be a great thing. Paying 17.5 per cent less would also mean you could do away with a lot of subsidy schemes.

Dennis Scard, general secretary, Musicians' Union There's got to be reform of the Public Entertainment Licences. If there are more than two performers you need a licence. If you don't have two musicians, you're allowed to have enough disco equipment to set off a cruise missile.

Ashley Slater, leader, Freakpower Right now. I'm seriously thinking of going out on the road all on my own as the Freakpower Sound System, and DJing and then just taking my trombone and some dub plates to

Sitting pretty after all these years

In a parallel universe, The Pretty Things are bigger than the Stones. But the (not quite so famous) band isn't bitter. By Pierre Perrone

"IF YOU look at anybody's life story, it's littered with car crashes and disasters. People say: aren't you pissed off that you didn't get to number one? Truth is, if we'd got it all in the first five years, either we'd be dead from drugs or we wouldn't have anything left to prove," says Pretty Things vocalist Phil May.

We're backstage at the Philipshalle in Dusseldorf before the band record a Rockpalast Christmas Special for German TV. A capacity crowd will watch performances by Ezio, Heather Nova and Van Morrison, who is headlining and made sure his old pals The Pretty Things

"I see Van quite a bit," explains

go out for a drink. And he's helping us totally out of friendship and, I think, respect," he adds while strumming Arthur Alexander's "You Better Move On". Catching my eye in the dressing room mirror, the singer flashes a smile. We both know The Rolling Stones recorded this song and that, but for the vagaries of fate, The Pretty Things may have been the ones trying to beat the British

taxman this year. "Tax problems or not, Keith Richards would be playing in a pub because that's what he is: a musician," says May in his defence. Dick Taylor walks in and gives us a quizzical look. In 1962, the guitarist

May. "Whenever he's in London, we nearly ended up joining the Stones ahead of Bill Wyman but opted to go to The Royal College of Art instead.

Busted by the drug-squad, beaten up by bouncers, banned by airlines before it became fashionable, The Pretty Things were definitive Sixties contenders, always in the right place, often at the right time but never quite making it. Having scored a couple of hits

with the sweaty, primal garage-sound of "Don't Bring Me Down" and "Honey I Need", they should then have joined the British invasion of the States. Instead, inept managers kept them going up and down the M1 and the autobahns.

themselves "incarcerated at Abbey Road with 600 screaming kids outside. The Beatles were there of course and Pink Floyd were recording too. Everybody met in the canteen, shared spliffs. The Beatles listened to the playbacks and gave you a thumbs-up or a smile. It was quite a flashback actually to play there again," he says, reflecting on The Pretty Things' first complete

Road, 30 years on, last September. With the help of a few heavy friends like Arthur Brown and Pink Floyd guitarist Dave Gilmour, the internet broadcast went swimmingly In 1968, The Pretty Things found a CD entitled Resurrection. "We're after Tommy [The Who's epochal masters back," says May. "The whole ty', is released in February

performance of S.F. Sorrow at Abbey

not claiming a place in history," says concept work]. We got slaughtered by the press!" Taylor and Waller quit the kind of album everybody said they bought at the time. If they had, it would have been number one."

Even in a truncated five-song version as in Dusseldorf - with the psychedelic sweep of "Balloon Burning" the centrepiece - the seminal work lives up to its reputation as missing link and mythical defining moment in popular music

"It's an undisputed fact that S.F. Sorrow is the first rock opera," says May, "the first concept album. Unfortunately, EMI eventually released S.F. Sorrow in the States a well and has just been released on year after the UK and six months

in disgust but, with the backing of Led Zeppelin's Swansong label, the Pretty Things soldiered on and even managed their first US tour in 1973. David Bowie covered "Rosalyn" and Don't Bring Me Down" on Pin-Ups while the boisterous rock of the Silk Torpedo and Savage Eye al-

bums prefigured punk. The classic S.F. Sorrow line-up eventually reunited three years ago. Through the dogged dedication of manager Mark St John, the group alogue. "Polygram and EMI never paid us any royalties and gave us our The new officem, Rage Before Beau-

thing has been pretty well documented. We really set a precedent."

The band may swagger on stage like Reservoir Dogs heavies but they're not bitter. "Unrepentant sums it up pretty well. We've had some brilliant times. Rock and roll is significant but pales in comparison with real life. Musicians getting ripped off is minor compared with getting blown to pieces by car bombs," stresses May. "The great thing about being where The Pretty Things are, almost at the end of our career, is that any gig could be had regained control of its entire cat- the last one. It gives us an edge!"



Electronica veterans move with the times

hold some six years ago they were showing all of classic signs of rock a roll battle fatigue. Reading their interviews at the time you could be forgiven for thinking that, had the foursome spent any more time together in the same room, they were liable to turn more to produce than they the backstabbing into full frontal murder. Tension ran high and the end was, it seemed, inevitable. Yet the

WHEN NEW Order were put on events named after one of the band's best know singles "Temptation". But why regroup at all? Well there is the obvious financial incentive - a chance to recoup some of that cash lost on such infamous follies as The Hacienda and that sleeve for "Blue Monday" which cost were actually making.

Sitting in a hotel bar before the gig, however, their singer Bernard Sumner suggests that Mancunians have once again this reunion is "simply for the come together for two dance fun of it. However with his con-

LIVE NEW ORDER MANCHESTER ARENA

stantly ringing mobile phone old mates after wads of tickets - and the management imposed 1am curfew it's hard to understand how any of this can be considered fun.

Two hours later though and Summer is hopping round the huge stage like a lager boy on a Spanish holiday having a laugh in the face of the bands

their Joy Division days having dogged the band ever since. A fact made even more poignant by the reworkings of old Joy Division numbers. "Heart and Soul" is turned inside out with a series of jittering junglist rhythms while "Love Will Tear Us Apart" is utterly transformed into an anthemic cel-

each verse with a huge whoop

and fist punching the air Both

songs suggesting what this

own tragic history, the suicide reunion is really about; the ex- of the stadium-sized event. of singer Ian Curtis back in orcism of old ghosts. In reinterpreting the past into the sound of their present, New Order are finally able to move forward.

From "Ceremony" to "True Faith", and from "Blue Monday" to "Bizarre Love Triangle", each track is deconstructed to its electronic bones and then rebuilt around a new ebration, Sumner following model. One which owes as much to alternative rock as it does acid house, but with an ear for the boombastic needs

The comeback gig is often like a TV soap. Each time an old character returns to the Square we cheer a little. Secretly however we'd all hoped for a final, tragic departure. With this gig New Order could have finally done a Tiffany and departed in blaze of glory. However with such a wealth of new ideas on display it seems New Order are more likely to get back on the bus than end un under its wheels.

MARTIN JAMES

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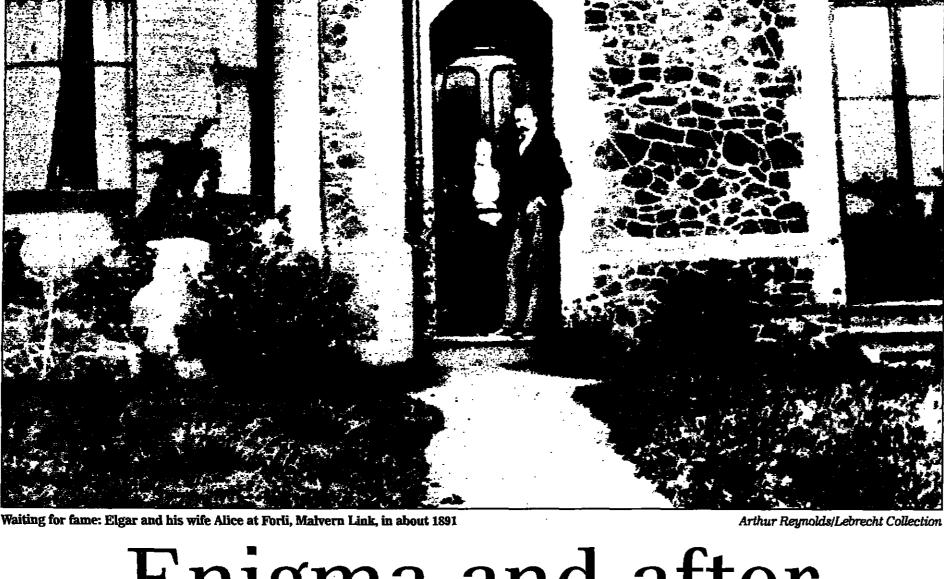
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Enigma and after

In 1898, Edward Elgar was a little-known provincial figure. That soon changed. By Bayan Northcott

was, as usual, George and how to amuse her he had then Bernard Shaw who put it most trenchantly: "For my part, I expected nothing from any English composer... But when I heard the Variations. I sat up and said: 'Whew!' I knew we had got it at last." In other words, tough luck on Stanford, Parry and Co, who had been toiling away nobly for London on 19 June 1899 under the years to redeem this country from its not entirely deserved reputation of terpreter of Wagner, Bruckner and had been sideswiped at a stroke by a little-known, self-taught genius from the provinces.

Though not so little known as all that. In his early 40s, Edward Elgar could take some satisfaction from the success of his choral works around the festival circuit of Birmingham, Leeds and the Three Choirs. But he had yet to achieve a major orchestral break in London, Meanwhile, it irked him that he still had to make up much of his income teaching the violin to young ladies around Malvern - but it was at the end of just such a wearisome day between 20 and 24 October 1898 that deliverance was to come.

Elgar often later recalled how he had arrived home tired and begun doodling abstractedly at the piano, when his wife suddenly asked him to fiddling around with the rhythm of his repeat a phrase she found striking, own name, which fits the first four ed listeners from the start was not been mainly confined to what the mar-

improvised on the phrase to suggest the mannerisms of their various friends. The idea of a kind of musical portrait gallery rapidly took shape, and by the 20 February 1899. Elgar had completed his Variations for Orchestra on an Original Theme (Enigma), Op 36. First performed in great Hans Richter - friend and inthe work was more or le immediately recognised as a defining masterpiece, Definitive of what? Well, for a start, of a singularly complex musical - and not only musical - personality. What is one to make of a composer behind whose almost every note echoes of other composers are to be detected, yet who never sounds other than himself, whose style, while it is drawn almost entirely from such Continental masters as Schumann,

deeply dependent on the extra-musical concerns of his daily life? Given his Schumannesque love of musical puns and cyphers, for instance, it seems possible that what set him off on that fateful October evening was

Wagner, Brahms and Dvorak, yet

seems so quintessentially English;

and whose technical mastery was so

notes of the original theme - so producing the coded self-reference he duly labelled Eniama. Or was he disconsolately fingering the intervals of the phrase "never, never, never" in Rule Britannia, which has been plausibly suggested as the solution to the claim in Elgar's programme note: "Through and over the whole set, another and larger theme 'goes', but is not played" - the work, after all, pictures an emblematic cross-section of

There's some strain about those later, great works, as Elgar strives for invention

sions and extra-musical references are to be found in all the ensuing variations - from the echo of the slow movement of Beethoven's Pathetique Sonata at the beginning of Nimrod to the evocation of the then Hereford organist George Sinclair's buildog, Dan, tumbling into the River Wye - yet, as the critic of The Athenaeum wrote after the first performance: "As abstract music they fully satisfy."

But what evidently most impress-

just the "national" scope of Elgar's musical imagery, nor the "European" scope of his style - which, in fact, he shared with Parry and Stanford - or even the professionalism and virtuosity of his orchestral scoring, though this was new in British music, but the complete authority of his utterance. In the upbeat year to a new century, a major master had suddenly declared himself, transforming the possibilities of the tradition from which masterpiece. And while subsequent generations of British composers -Vaughan Williams and Holst, Walton and Constant Lambert, Tippett and Britten - were to pursue very different artistic agendas, all sooner or later came to revere the composer of the Enigma Variations as the start of it all. Nor was the work's significance only local. From St Petersburg in 1904, where it delighted Glazunov and Rimsky-Korsakov, to New York in 1910, when it was conducted by Mahler, it served notice on musicians and audiences that British music was once again to be taken seriously, and it has held its place in the international repertoire ever since.

Yet not least of the work's fascinations is its uniqueness in Elgar's output. Before 1899, his efforts had

ket wanted - lyrical salon pieces and choral cantatas, for which he already showed a characteristic talent, Over the next two decades, by contrast, he was to tackle the forms of oratorio, symphony and concerto on the most elaborate scale, pushing his innovations in structure, harmony and orchestration to far more sophisticated ends than anything in the Variations. Yet it's possible to feel about those later great works a certain strain as SUTIVES TO KILLI THE CL ches of invention that he habitually worked with into seamless continuities - whereas theme and variation form had offered him the possibility of building up a large-scale structure by a balance of contrasts without the need for seamless links. Indeed, with the arguable exception of the grandiose final passage, which Elgar was persuaded to extend after the first nerformance, one is tempted to hail the Enigma Variations - in its unforced synthesis of public and private manner, of small-scale form and large-scale design, of invention and pacing, colour and expression - as well nigh note-perfect. That the insipiently fevered and fissiparous cultural world of 1899 could throw up a work of such wholeness was already something of a miracle. A century on, anything remotely like it is inconceivable.

Let's hear it for Monsieur Poulenc!

A NEW year: time for a new look at the chronically underrated composer whose centenary falls this week. Francis Poulenc may have a big fan club in Japan, but in the West he is looked at askance, while his own country remains impervious to his music's acidulated charm. Since fashionability was in his view an artistic calamity. he would doubtless be proud of

his standing in France today.

Poulenc died 36 years ago, but he is still fondly remembered. Leo Rothschild, chairman of the Royal College of Music, recalls a shy man playing to a student audience whose brutish interruptions he endured without complaint. The record-producer, Paul Mvers, who knew him in the Fifties, recalls the impression he gave of a man who had survived into an alien age. "One sensed a sadness, which in his music is always set aside with a sudden laugh or a joke." It was at Myers's instigation that Pascal Roge began recording the complete cycle of Poulenc's piano works, whose final volume has just been released by Decca.

Roge - now the world leader in pianistic Poulenckery embraced his vocation at an early age. "It happened when I was six. My mother, who was an organist, was practising Poulenc's organ concerto, and I quite simply fell in love with it, with the magic of its harmonies. I turned the pages for her, and pulled the stops, and even tried to play bits of it myself. When Poulenc heard her play it on the radio, he sent her a very nice letter. I never met him, though I wanted to." There was then a gap of many years, because at the Paris Conservatoire - where Roge went to study – people seldom breathed the name of Poulenc. "He was not considered an important composer for students to learn - and he still isn't now. But I kept that early memory and when, in my twenties, I started to build my own repertoire, I decided to look into his music. Then I discovered its vou can have an instant physical rapport without knowing why. That is what I had with Poulenc."

sense of the word. "But you only need to hear two bars to know it is him, which is the mark of a great composer. He has his own language: he uses the harmonies which everyone else uses, but he does so like nobody else. Structure with Poulenc is not important; what counts is the colour, the style, the sound. "It is a matter of expres-

Rogé concedes that he was

not an innovator in the normal

siveness without sentimentality. What he wanted was emotional restraint, a kind of modesty - though not the impersonality of a machine."

SIGHT READINGS



MICHAEL **CHURCH**

We all embody paradoxes, but Poulenc did so more than most, in life as in art. His penchant for guardsmen and chauffeurs did not preclude his siring a daughter to whom he remained close. The funeral tribute by his friends Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears dwelt on the depression which lurked behind the witty façade. As our critic Bayan Northcott has pointed out. Poulenc's musical hallmark was a conceptual toughness which led him to expand the traditional notions of "the work" to breaking point. His instinctive astringency led him to despise his own most popular piano pieces, and even to hurl a completed string

quartet down the drain. Next Thursday, the soprano Felicity Lott will be one of those taking part in an anniversary concert at the Wigmore Hall: Poulenc's lyric muse was as inexhaustible as Schubert's, and his chansons and mélodies are this century's best answer to the Viennese master. And for those who can't get to the concert, there is another option in the form of Lott's Decca recording on which Rogé is the accompanist. Lott's delicate expressiveness feels infinitely more authentic than Jessye Norman's soupy ponderousness in EMI's four-box set.

But that set is still a treasure-trove. Everything is there, often in wonderfully historic performances. The composer himself whirls through his two-piano concerto with 1211 partner, ine dari tone Pierre Bernac, with whom Poulenc toured for decades. delivers the songs composed for him: Peter Ustinov narrates for the Babar suite; and Poulenc's muse Denise Duval splendidly incarnates the protagonist of La Voix Humaine. As Flaubert identified with his heroine ("Madame Bovary, c'est moi"), so Poulenc identified with this doomed character, who addresses her telephone in a dramatic monologue of unrequited love. Full of delights, these boxes amply support Poulenc's cautious self-justification: "I think there's room for new music which doesn't mind using other people's chords. Wasn't that the case with Mozart-Schubert?". Quite so.

ON THE AIR ROBERT MAYCOCK

Birmingham Royal

on EastEnders"? Just when IF SUMMER is the broadcasting silly season, Christmas is just weird. Music doesn't escape the flood of desperate efforts to look original. This year's BBC2 offerings were big on grand British companies pretending to be demotic, a ploy about as believable as Marie Antoinette offering you a slice of cake.

Welsh National Opera led the way with what was flagged as a soap-style Poppea, starting Tuesday and running through until tomorrow in a prime earlyevening slot.

It is a tested idea. The BBC had some success a few years ago when they presented The Vampire in daily episodes, and this version of David Alden's stage production had the confidence to present the work straight, sung in Italian with subtitles, and performed in a theatre. The racy story took some mildly spicy treatment in a straightforward and mainly contemporary way, and Monteverdi's arching lines were eloquently sung.

Mixed messages there still were, and they came from the packaging. Short, awkward resumes started with the line "Previously on Popped". What is this "on"? Whoever said "previously

you were getting used to Ballet's crazy idea was the austere musical and Nutcracker Sweeties (Christmas Day), a halfacting style, the show ended and you had to remember bour of nostalgia for an imaginary, camp America of the time for the next day. the Fifties, choreographed Was it meant to be an opera by David Bintley. Spoken relay or an attempt at good links here, Voice of television? If the latter, you had to wonder at the slow America-style, were pace and the dramatic and supposed to be on a car visual tameness. The best radio. If that wasn't arch enough, the ballet itself took of the real soaps have a Duke Ellington's big-band speed and energy that version, or rather opera has never tried to match. In which case, there appropriation, of the is only the singing to make Tchaikovsky score and had Poppea special. So why it danced to by a flagrantly white company prancing pretend otherwise? Since audiences don't around in the usual like sugared pills, the real European way. Culture purpose of the disguise shock twice over. The stage must have been to convince performers were topquality in their own terms

the TV-managing classes that they are not just at least, though best of all indulging their own was the unseen, 15-piece "Echoes of Ellington" band. expensive tastes but doing Then there was Simon something worthy for the masses. A further whiff of Rattle, pictured (Moving On, Sunday 27) explaining double standards came yet again how to reconcile a from the alarming amount of smoking that went on. conductor's ego-tripping It's OK if it's art, apparently.

with a semblance of orchestral democracy. Nobody else gets Charm, that's how: same as a popular politician, really. with Funny how the that on profession television ` talks about at 6pm, not even him as though he Bernie were still Ecclestone.

the whizz kid of 20 years ago who would unlock the secrets of music to all our children, while before our eves he has grown into an international heavyweight. He can still put it across passionately to his own generation, but they have all grown up with him. A man for the converted, these days. Radio 3's seasonal folly

has been a glut of whimsical series. Novelists have been writing about their favourite moments in music; Natalie Wheen (welcome back) has made us guess whose music room she is reporting on: Leonard Slatkin is airing his personal form of musical outreach. The most intriguing has been The Harmonic Series, Adrian Jack's laconic 10-minute essays about chords. As neat as a crib-sheet and as suggestive as a Victorian painting, they manage to be both didactic and highly personal at the same time. But I am in two minds about what they are actually there for. They show beautifully why disconnected pieces can sound mysteriously alike. Yet does anybody listen who doesn't already know? I think I will just settle for calling them entertainment of rare sophistication.

ENTERTAINMENT: CONCERTS, THEATRE



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NEW FILMS

THE ACID HOUSE (18) Director: Paul McGuigan

Starring: Slephen McCole, Ewen Bremner A trio of interrelated shorts culled from the stories of Irvine Welsh, which are played out in the down-and-dirty landscape of inner-city Edinburgh. Director Paul McGuigan turns The Acid House into a triumph, adapting his style well to the shifting landscape of Welsh's tales. West End: Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

STAR TREK: INSURRECTION (PG)

Director: Jonathan Frakes Starring: Patrick Stewart

In the latest instalment in the sci-fi series, Patrick Stewart's do-gooding captain tangles with F Murray Abraham, who's hatched a scheme to take over an Eden-like planet of perpetual youth. Insurrection takes no risks with the Stor Trek format; it navel-gazes for a while, gives floorspace to the regulars and idles its way along to the climax. West End: ABC Baker Street. ABC Tottenham Court Road. Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch. Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

SITCOM (18)

Director: François Ocon

Starring: Evelyne Dandry, François Marthouret A scattergun satire on middle-class mores, which takes abundant pleasure in dismantling a standard nuclear family (mère, père, fils et fille). The result is sharp, funny and savage one moment, over-heated and indulgent the next. West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Virgin Chelseo

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

THE APPLE (SIB) (PG)

Seventeen-year-old Samirah Makhmalbaf's precocious début stages a true-life recreation of the fortunes of Iran's Naderi sisters. West End: Metro, Renoir

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

The follow-up to Babe tosses the hapless "sheep pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of assorted waifs. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys. Virgin Trocadero

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)

Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse to probe a political cover-up. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet. Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End. Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)

This gaudy swashbuckler gallops full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas' authentically Hispanic do-gooder. West End: Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

THE MIGHTY (PG)

Peter Chelsom's The Mighty treads through familiar coming-of-age country with its tale of two outcast kids in Cincinnati. West End: Screen on the Hill, Virgin Fulham Road. Virgin Haymarket

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)

Samuel L Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to head in a thrilling drama. West End: UCI Whiteleys. Virgin Trocadero. Warner Village West End

OUT OF SIGHT (15)

George Clooney plays the law-breaking hero as a down-and-dirty version of Cary Grant, and turns in the best performance of his career so far. West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)

Lindsay Lohan stars as the separated at-birth twin sisters (one British, one American) who are trying to get their parents (Natasha Richardson and Dennis Quaid) back together. West End: Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin. Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)

In planning his cartoon life of Moses, DreamWorks honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged it "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result winds up as The Ten Commandments by way of Joseph and his Technicolar Dreamcoat. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

RUSH HOUR (15)

Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker's star in this hitand-miss thriller. West End: Hammersmith Virgin. Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15)

Robin Williams simpers as the dead chappie who goes to a cod-Impressionist heaven before jetting southward to rescue his suicide bride. West End: ABC Baker Street. ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket. Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

CINEMA WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET (0870-902 0418) + Baker Street The Prince of Egypt 1.40pm, 4pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm What Dreams May Come 6.05pm, 8.35pm

ABC PANTON STREET (0870-902 0404) & Piccadilly Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm My Name is Joe 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

ABC PICCADILLY (from 1pm) (0171-287 4322 Piccadilly Circus Harnam: The Turkish Bath 1.25pm. 3.50pm. 6.10pm, 8.35pm There's Something bout Mary 1.05pm, 3.30pm, 6pm,

ARC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE uare/Tottenham Court Road Texas Massacre 1,40pm. 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm What Dreams May Come 1.05pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0870-902 0403) ← Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus Buffato 66 3.40pm, 8.40pm The Eel 1.10pm. 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm The Governess 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm It's a Wonderful Life 1.05pm, 6.05pm La Vie Revée des Anges 1.15pm, 3.35pm,

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) & Tottenham Court Road Antz 4.45pm. 9.45pm Enemy of The State 1.05pm. 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm The Prince of Egypt 2pm, 7.55pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.50pm,

RARRICAN SCREEN

(0171-351 3742) ↔ Sloane Square On Connaît la Chanson 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323) & Clapham Common Enemy of The State 6.20pm, 9pm The Mask of Zorro 1.15pm, 4pm The Parent Trap 3.45pm The Prince of Egypt 1.30pm, 3.30pm Sitcom 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm What Dreams May Come 6.45pm, 9.15pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) & Green Park Dancing at Lughnasa 4.15pm, 9pm The Philadelphia Story 6.30pm

CURZON SOHO (0171-734 2255 (12pm-6pm) → Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road Casablanca 4.15pm, 9pm Elizabeth 6.30pm The Mighty 5.15pm, 7.15pm My Name is Joe 9.15pm Sitcom 5.30pm, 7.30pm,

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE Castle The Prince of Egypt 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.20pm,

EMPIRE LEICESTER SOUARE (0990-888990) & Leicester Square Out of Sight 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm, 11.20pm The Prince of Egypt 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm, 11pm Star Trek: 8.30pm, 11pm Star Trek: Insurrection 11pm, 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm, 11.40pm

The Acid House 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm, 11.30pm HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN

(0870-907 0718) O Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith Enemy of The State 3pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm The Parent Trap 12noon The Prince of Egypt 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm Rush Hour 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm

ICA CINEMA (0171-930 3647) & Charing Cross Sex/Life in LA Spm, 7pm, 9pm

Circus/Leicester Square The Apple (Sib) 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm The Boys 4.15pm, 8.45pm Fire 2pm,

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) ♦ Notting Hill Gate Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

ODEON CAMPEN TOWN ODEON CAMPEN TOWN (08705-050007) © Camden Town The Acid House 2.05pm. 4.20pm. 6.35pm. 8.55pm. 11.10pm Babe: Pig in the City 12.05pm Enemy of the State 12.05pm, S.30pm. 8.30pm. 11.15pm Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 11.30pm The Mask of Zorro 3.30pm. 8.35pm The Parent Tran 12.10pm The Prince of Fevrot Trap 12.10pm The Prince of Egypt 11.45am, 1.55pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12.15pm. 2.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.35pm What Dreams May Come 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 11.25pm

ODEON HAYMARKET

(08705-050007) & High Street Kensington Babe: Pig in the City 12.10pm Enemy of the State 12.05pm. 3.10pm, 6.15pm, 9.20pm, 12.25am Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.15am The Mass of Zorre 2.25cm 5.40pm, 8.55cm Smoking Barrels 12.15am The Mask of Zorro 2.25pm, 5.40pm, 8.55pm, 12.10am Out of Sight 6.20pm, 9.20pm The Parent Trap 12.50pm, 3.35pm The Prince of Egypt 12.45pm, 3pm, 5.15pm, 7.30pm Rush Hour 9.50pm, 12.15am Star Trek: Insurrection 2pm, 4.35pm, 7.10pm, 9.45pm, 12.20am What Dreams May Come 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 7pm, 9.45pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (08705-050007) ← Lekester Square The Mask of Zorro 11.40am, 2.30pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (08705-050007) & Marble Arch Enemy of the State 12noon, 3.05pm, 6.05pm, 9.05pm, 12.05am The Mask of Zorro 11.45am, 2.50pm, 5.55pm, 9.05pm, 12.05am The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.15pm The Parent Trap 12.13pm, 3.13pm The Prince of Egypt 11.55am, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm Rush Hour 9pm, 11.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm, 11.35pm What Dreams May Come 6pm, 8.50pm, 11.45pm

ODEON MEZZANINE Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Lock, Stock & Tivo Smoking Les Miserables 3.30pm, 8.30pm Mutan 1.40pm, 3.50pm Ronin 5.55pm, 8.25pm Snake Eyes 1.05pm, 6pm There's Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE 3.25pm, 5.55pm Rush Hour 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm What Dreams May Come 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

ODEON WEST END (08705-050007) ← Lelcester Square Enemy of the State 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.25pm, 9.10pm, 11.25pm The Parent Trap

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA PEFSI MAN CITEMA (0171-494 4153) & Piccadilly Circus Everest 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.05pm T-Rec Back to the Cretaceous (3-0) 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.45pm, 8pm, 10.05pm

(0181-444 6789) & East Finchley Bizabeth 6.15pm Left Luggage 4pm Out of Sight 8.55pm

(0990-888990) & Piccaclilly Circus The (0590-88399) 9 Fracadily Circle The Acid House 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 9pm Babe: Pig in the City 12.45pm, 3.10pm, 5.30pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Saving Private Ryan 7.50pm The Truman Showr 3.35pm, 8.40pm

RENOIR (0171-837 8402) ← Russell Square The Apple (Sib) 1pm, 2.55pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm On Connait Ia Chanson 3.45pm, 8.35pm The Philadelphia Story 1.25pm, 6.15pm

(0171-254 6677) BR: Dalston Kingsland Elizabeth 6.15pm Live Flesh 4pm Out of Sight 8.45pm

RITZY CINEMA (0171-733 2229) BR/@ Brixton The Acid House 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm, Acid House 4,15pm, 6,45pm, 9,15pm, 11,45pm Enemy of the State 3.05pm, 6.15pm, 8,50pm, 11,25pm The Mask of Zorro 3pm, 6pm Out of Sight 9pm, 11,30pm The Prince of Egypt 3,30pm, 6,40pm Rush Hour 8,45pm, 11,20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 3,15pm, 7pm, 9,20pm, 11,35pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-935 2772) Baker Street Enemy of the State 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Left Luggage 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-226 3520) ← Angel/-lighbury & Islington Enemy of the State 2.40pm. 5.30pm, 8.20pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-435 3366) ♥ Beisize Park Left Luggage 4.40pm The Mighty 2.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

UCI WHITELEYS (0870-603 4567) & Queensway Antz 12,50pm, 2,50pm Babe: Pig in the City 1,10pm, 3,30pm Enemy of the State 12,40pm, 3,40pm, 6pm, 6,30pm, 8,50pm, 9,20pm The Mask of Zorro phone for details The Negotiator phone for details Out of Sight phone for details The Parent Trap phone for details The Prince of lrap priore for details file Prince of Egypt phone for details Rush Hour 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm Star Trek: Insurrection 11.40pm, 2.10pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm What Dreams May Come 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA Insurrection 11pm, 1.30pm, 4pm.

6.30pm, 9pm, 11.40pm

GATE NOTTING HILL

(0171-727 4043)

Notting Hill Gate
The Acid House 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm, 11.30pm

(0870-907 0710)

Square/South Kensington Antz Fri 12.45pm Enemy of the State 2.45pm, 6pm The Parent Trap 12.30pm, 3.15pm Sitcon 2.30pm, 5nm, 7om, 9.30cm What Dreams May Come 1.30pm, 4pm. 6.30pm.

> 6.50pm, 9.30pm Elizabeth 9pm Enemy of the State 12.30pm, 3 10nm, 6nm, 9.20nm The Mask of 3.10pm, 6pm, 9.24pm the mass to Zorro 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm The Mighty 1pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm The Prince of Egypt 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET (0870-907 0712) ← Piccadilly Circus The Acid House 2.40pm, 5.25pm, 8.10pm (+ Short: Jump Boy) The Mighty 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm My Name is Joe 3.30pm, 6.10pm,

8.45pm VIRGIN TROCADERO

VIRGIN TROCADERO
(0870-907 0716) — Piccadilly Circus
Antz 12.20pm, 2.10pm, 4.05pm,
6.10pm Babe: Pig in the City 12noon.
2pm The Negotiator 8.30pm Out of
Sight 5.40pm, 8.30pm The Prince of
Egypt 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm,
8.10pm Ronin 9pm Rush Hour
12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.40pm, 7pm,
9.20pm, 11.30pm Star Trekt
Insurmerion 12noon 2.20pm, Insurrection 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.15pm The Truman Show 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm What Dreams May Come 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.50pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END (0171-437 4343) & Leicester Square The Acid House 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm, 12midnight Blade 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.35pm, 12.10am The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 9pm, 11.40pm Lethal Weapon 4 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6pm Lock, Stock & Tiwo Smoking Barrels 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm, 11.10pm Mulan 1.55pm The Negotiator 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm, 11.55pm A Perfect Murder 3.40pm, 11.55pm A Perfect Murder 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm, 11.45pm Rush Hour 3.55om, 6.30om, 8.50om, 11.30om WARNER VILLAGE WEST END 3.55pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm, 11.30pm What Dreams May Come 1.50pm, 3pm, 4.20pm, 5.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.20pm, 9.20pm, 11pm, 11.50pm.

CINEMA LONDON LOCALS

ABC (0870 9020412) BR: Beckenham Junction Babe: Pig in the City 1.20pm Enemy of the State 6,30pm, 9,20pm The Parent Trap 3,35pm The Prince of Egypt 12,10pm, 2,25pm, 4,40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12,05pm, 2.30pm, 4.55pm, 7.20pm, 9.45pm What Dreams May Come 6.55pm, 9.30pm

BROMLEY **ODEON** (08705 050007) BR: Bromley North Enemy of the State 12.20pm, 3.15pm, 6.10pm, 9.15pm The Mask of Zorro 3.10pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm The Parent Trap 12.20pm The Prince of Egypt 1.15pm, 3.50pm Rush Hour 6.45pm, 9.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.35pm, 9.25pm

CATFORD ABC (0181-698 3306) BR: Catford-Babe: Pig in the City 1.15pm Star Trek: Insurrection 3.30pm, 6pm. 8.40pm What Dreams May Come

EALING VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (0870-9070719) BR/& Ealing Broadway Enemy of the State 6pm, 8.40pm The Mask of Zorro 8.30pm The Parent Trap 12.30pm, 3.20pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12.45pm, 3.30pm,

6.10pm, 8.45pm

NORTH FINCHLEY WARNER VILLAGE (0181-446 9344) O East Finchley/Finchley Central Antz 4.10pm, 7pm Babe: Pig in the City 10.50am Enemy of the State 2.45pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm, 12mldnight The Mask of Zorro 3.30pm, 6.25pm. 9.20pm The Negotiator 9.25pm The Parent Trap 2.30pm, 6.30pm The Prince of Egypt 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm Rush Hour 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm, 11.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm, 6.40pm, 9pm, 11.30pm What Dreams May Come 3.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm, 12.10am

GREENWICH GREENWICH
CINEMA (0181-293 0101) BR: Greenwich Elizabeth 1.15pm Enemy of the
State 3.20pm, 6.05pm, 8.50pm,
11.35pm The Mask of Zorro 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm The Parent Trap 1pm The Prince of Egypt 12.45pm Rush Hour 11.45pm Star Treic Insurrection 2.45pm, 5pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm, 11.50pm

HAMPSTEAD
ABC (0870-9020413) & Belsize Park
Enemy of the State 5.25pm, 8.10pm
The Parent Trap 2.20pm The Prince of
Egypt 1.25pm, 3.45pm Star Trek: Insurrection 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
What Dreams May Come 6pm, 8.30pm SAFARI CINEMA (0181-426 0303)

HAMPSTEAD

O Harrow on the Hill/Harrow & Weald-stone Doll Sajake Rakhna 1pm. 7.30pm, 10.45pm The Soldier (Asian Film) 1pm, 4,15pm WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) O Harrow on the Hill Antz 5.50pm, 7.50pm Babe: Pig in the City 3.30pm Enemy of the State 3pm, 3.50pm, 6pm, 6.40pm, 9pm 9.25pm, 11.45pm The Mask of Zorro 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.30pm, 11.25pm The Parent Trap 4.10pm, 6.55pm The Prince of Egypt 2.05pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm Rush Hour 2.15pm, 4.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.35pm, 10pm, 11.55pm Star Trek: In-surrection 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm,

11,15pm What Dreams May Come 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.05pm, 11.40pm MUSWELL HILL ODEON (08705 050007) & Highgate Enemy of the State 2.50pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm The Mask of Zorro 5.15pm, 8.15pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm The Prince of Egypt 12.50pm, 3pm Star Trek: Insurrection 11.40am, 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm

PECKHAM PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peck-ham Rye Antz 1.50pm Babe: Pig in the City 12noon Blade 11.50pm En-emy of the State 12.35pm, 3.20pm, 6.05pm, 8.50pm, 11.35pm Lost in Space 11.50am The Mask of Zorro Space 11.50am The Mask of Zorro 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm The Mighty 1.55pm, 4.10pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Mulan 12.20pm The Negotiator 11.15pm The Parent Trap 11.45am, 2.10pm The Player's Club 11.55pm The Prince of Egypt 2.35pm Rush Hour 2.45pm, 5pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm, 11.45pm Small Soldiers 11.45am Star Trek Insurance of Access 2.05pm, 9.20pm surrection 4.40pm, 7.05pm, 9.20pm, 11.40pm What Dreams May Come 4.35pm, 7pm, 9.25pm

PURLEY ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley Babe: Pig in the City 12.05pm Enemy of the State 4.55pm, 8pm The Parent Trap 2.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12.55pm 3.20pm 6.20pm, 8.30pm What Dreams May Come 5.50pm, 8.20pm

ROMFORD ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford Babe: Pig in the City 12.30pm Enemy of the State 5.20pm, 8.10pm The Parent Trap 2.40pm The Prince of Egypt 12.55pm, 3.05pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1,20pm, 3,45pm, 6,10pm, 8.35pm What Dreams May Come

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705 050007) BR: Romford Antz 12.30pm Babe: Pig in The City 1.30pm, 4pm 6.30pm En-emy of the State 2.15pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm The Mask of Zorro 2.45pm, 6pm, 8.50pm The Mighty 9.10pm Mu-lan 12.45pm Out of Sight 9pm The lan 12.45pm Out of Sight 9pm The Parent Trap 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm The Prince of Egypt 12.40pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 2.15pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm Small Soldiers 1pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm What Dreams May Come 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm

SIDCUP ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sldcup Babe: Pig in the City 1.15pm The Prince of Egypt 1pm, 3.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm What Dreams May Come 5.450m.

SURREY QUAYS UCI (0990 888990) & Surrey Quays Antz 12.40pm Babe: Pig in the City 12.50pm, 2pm, 3.20pm Enemy of the State 12.45pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 6.40pm The Mask of Zorro 3.10pm, 6.10pm. 9.20pm Out of Sight 8.40pm The Par ent Trap 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.50pm The Prince of Egypt 12noon, 1pm, 2.30pm, 3.30pm, 5pm, 7.30pm Rush Hour 7.30pm, 12.10am Small Soldlers 12.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 3.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 7pm What Dreams May Come

3.40pm, 6.20pm CORONET (0181-888 2519) ⊕ Turnpike Lane. Enemy of the State 3pm. 5.45pm. 8.20pm The Parent Trap 12.45pm The Prince of Egypt 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm

ODEON (08705 050007) @ Uxbridge Enemy of the State 2.10pm, 5.20pm. 8.15pm The Prince of Egypt 12noon Star Trek: Insurrection 1.25pm. 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

WALTHAMSTOW ABC (0870-9020424) Walthams Central Babe; Pig in the City 12.45pm Enemy of the State 5.20pm, 8pm The Parent Trap 2.45pm Star Trek: insurrection 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.20pm What Dreams May Come

5.55pm, 8.20pm ODEON (08705 050007) BR/@ Wimbledon/@ South Wimbledon Antz 11.30am Babe: Pig In the City 11.45am Enemy of the State 11.45am, 2.30pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm, 1.20pm The Mask of Zorro 1.55pm. 5pm, 8.10pm The Parent Trap 1,20pm, 3.55pm Rush Hour 6.30pm. 8.45pm, 11.15pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12.25pm, 3.10pm,

5.55pm, 8.45pm, 11.15pm What Dreams May Come 6pm, 8.35pm, MOOLWICH CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm The Prince of Egypt 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm **CINEMA** REPERTORY

LONDON NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-928 3232) Saving Private Ryan (15) 2.45pm The Brave Little Taffor: Junior NFT (NC) 4pm The Wiz (U) 5.45pm There's Something About Mary (15) 6.10pm The Petrified Forest (NC) 7.30pm He Got Game (18) 8.20pm Love is Cold-

er than Death (18) 8.45pm PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) Men in Black (PG) 8.15pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Brentford, Middlesex (0181-568 1176) Mulan (U) 1.30pm Dancing at Lugimasa (PG) 4.30pm If Only (15) 6.30pm

DUKE OF YORK'S (01273-602503) My Name is Joe (15) 4.15pm, 9.15pm H**enry Fool (18)** 6.30pm

RIGHTON

ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) The Eel (Unagi) (18) 3pm, 9.20pm In-somnia (18) 5.10pm My Name is Joe (15) 7.15pm

CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) (PG) 6.15pm The Governess (15) 7.30pm Year of the Horse (15) CHICHESTER

NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-786650) Antz (PG) 4pm Les Miserables (12) 6.15pm Still Crazy

THEATRE

Ticket availability details are for today; times and prices for the week; running times include intervals.

— Seats at all prices D — Seats at some prices O — Returns only Matinees — [1]: Sun, [3]: Tue, [4]: Wed, [5]: Thur, [6]: Fri, [7]: Sat

NALARMS & EXCURSIONS Michael Fraya's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Glelgud Shaftesbury Avenue, WI (0171-494 5065) & Picc. Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £19.50-£27.50. 130 mins.

AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama. Old Vic The Cut. SE1 (0171-928 7616/cc 420 0000) BR/O Waterloo, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, from £7.50-£30, 180 mins. ANNIE Rags to riches story of the

optimistic orphan. Victoria Palace Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/O Victoria. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm. [1] 4pm, £7.50-£32.50. • ART Larry Lamb, Jack Dee, Tim Healy in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Char-ing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 0171-867 1111) • Leic Sq.

Tue-Sat 8.00pm, [4] 3.00pm, [7][1] 5.00pm, £9.50-£27.50. 90 mins. ● BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical melo-drama. Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) → Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 3.00pm, [7] 4.00pm, £11.50-£32.50. 165 mins.

● BOOGIE NIGHTS Shane Richie stars in a brand new 1970s musical. Savoy Strand. WCZ (0171-836 8888/cc 0171-836 0479) ← Charing X/Embankment. Tonight 5.30pm & 8.30pm. £11-£28.50. 150 mins. ● BUDDY Musical biog-show tracing

wych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) & Covent Garden/Charling X. Today 5.30pm, £10-£27, half price Friday matinees. D CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems. New London Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 0171-404 4079) ← Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7]

O CHICAGO Maria Priedman and Peter Davison star in this hit Broadway musical Adelphi Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) & Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4][7] 3pm, £16-£36 (inc booking fee). 130 mins.

3.00pm, £12.50-£35. 165 mins.

) THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare Company fast-forward through 37 plays. Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) ◆ Picc Circ. Today 5pm & 8pm, £6-£25, Thu mats - all seats £10. ■ FAME THE MUSICAL High-octane

ge version of the TV series charting

the highs and lows of a class of you showbiz hopefuls. Prince of Wales Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5972) ⊕ Leic So/Picc Circ. Mon-Thu 8pm. Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm. Sat 4pm & 8pm. ends 16 Jan, £15-£30.

• GREASE Energetic stage version of the hit film. Cambridge Eartham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) ◆ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3.00pm, £10-£30, 150 mins. ◆ AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christopher Cazenove and Susannah York in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy. Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) ◆ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat

7.45pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £8.50-£29.50, 165 mins,) AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's widely acclaimed production of JR Priestley's thriller Garrick Char-ing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) ⊕ Leic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 5.00pm, £10.50-£25. 110 mins.

) INTO THE WOODS Sondheim and Lapine's acclaimed musical based on fairytales. Donmar Warehouse Eartham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) ◆ Covent Garden, Tonight 7.30pm

THE INVENTION OF LOVE Tom Stoppard's play about the life of poet A E Houseman, author of The Shropshire Lod. Theatre Royal, Haymarket Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) + Picc Circ. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50.

) JESUS, MY BOY Tom Conti stars in John Dowie's alternative Christm show, Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue. WI (0171-494 5070) + Picc Circ. Today 5pm & 8pm, £5.50-£18.50. ● KAFKA'S DICK Eric Sykes and Ju-

lia Mackenzie star. Piccadfilly Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) & Picc Circ. Tonight 8pm. ends 26 Feb 26. £12-£30. • LOVE UPON THE THRONE Steful look at the Charles and Diana marriage. Comedy Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) ⊕ Picc Circ/Leic Sq. Tonight 8pm, ends 9 Jan, £7.50-£25.

LES MISERABLES Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece.
Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, £7-£35, 195

MISS SAIGON Musical which resets the Modom Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) • Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3.00pm, £5.75-£35.

) THE MOUSETRAP Againa Christie's whodumnit St Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) & Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8.00pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7] 5.00pm. £10-£24.50. 135 mins.

MR PUNTILA AND HIS MAN MAT-77 Sean Foley and Harrish McColl star in a new version of Brecht's comedy satire. Albery St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730) & Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 30pm, [5][7] 3pm, ends 9 Jan, £5-£22.50.

O THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic music Her Majesty's Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 0171-344 4444) & Picc Grc. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3.00pm, £10-£35, 150 mins.

• RENT Musical inspired by La Boheme

and set in modern day New York Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue. WC2 (07000-211221) & Holbom/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £12.50-£32.50. 160 mins. ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE

DOLIVIER: Peter Pan Stephen Oliver's music accompanies the tale of the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up, with Michael Bryant as the Storyteller. In rep tonight 7.15pm.) LYTTELTON: Betrayal Pinter's defin-ing work depicts a menage a trois and stars Imogen Stubbs and Douglas

Hodge, in rep tonight 7.30pm, 90 mins. O COTTESLOE: Copenhagen New drama from Michael Frayn about the discovery of the atom. In rep tonight 7.30pm. 145 mins. Olivier & Lyttelton: 58-527. Cottesloe: £12-£18. Dat seats from 10am. South Bank, SE1 (0171-657 300m). BRAD Waterloop. 452 3000), BR/O Waterloo.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY D THE BARBICAN: The Tempest Adri-an Noble directs Shakespeare's romance drama. In rep tonight 7.15pm.

THE PIT: The Two Gentlemen Of Verona Shakespeare's witty comedy is directed by Edward Hall. In rep tonight 7.15pm. Barbican Theatre: £5-£26. The Pit: £11-£18.50. Barbican Centre. EC2 (0171-638 8891). BR/& Barbican.

O SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER Hit 1970s musical featuring legendary songs by the Bee Gees and starring Adam Gar-cia. London Palladium Argyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) ⊕ Oxford Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50, 135 mins) THE SNOWMAN Award-winning

production of Raymond Briggs's con-temporary classic. Sadler's Wells At The Peacock Portugal Street, WC2 (0171-863 8222) \(\theta\) Holborn/Temple. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 30 Jan, **● STARLIGHT EXPRES**S Andrew Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-musical. Apollo Victoria Wilton Road, SW1

(0171-416 6070) BR/O Victoria. Mon-

Sat 7.45pm, [3][7] 3.00pm, £12.50-£30. 150 mins.) THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE Belinda Lang stars in Alan Ayekbourn's comedy. Duchess Catherine Street. WC2 (0171-494 5075/cc 0171-344 4444) & Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, ends 23 Jan, £15-£27.50. 140 mins.

THE WEIR Copor McPherson's drama is set in Ireland and examines ideas of ghosts and angels. Royal Court nstairs (at the Duke Of York's) St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565) 5000) ← Lelc Sq/Charing X. Mon-7.30pm, [4][7] 3.30pm, booking to Feb 27, £5-£25, 90 mins.

) WEST SIDE STORY Brand new proction of Bernstein's classic n attempting to recreate the feel of the original Broadway hit. Prince Edward Old Compton Street, W1 (0171-447 5400] ⊕ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £15-£35, 160 mins.

OWNESTLE DOWN THE WIND Lived Webber's new musical based on the life of the same name. Aldwych Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 5000) ← Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £10-£32.50, 120 mins.

THE WOMAN IN BLACK Susan Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Russell Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238/cc 0171-344 4444) ← Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 3pm, Sat 4pm, £8.50-£23.50. 110 mins.

THEATRE **BEYOND THE WEST END**

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE Little Malcolm and His Struggle Against the Eunuchs Ewan McGregor stars as the revolutionary activist in David Halli-well's drama. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Sat 3.30pm, ends 2 Jan. £9-£16, concs £6. ue Road, NW3 (0171-722 9301) ◆ Swiss Cottage.

Nite Catechism Satire on the Catholic church, Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Sat 4pm. ends 20 Feb. £20. concs £15. Jermyn Street. SW1 (0171-287 2875) & Piccadilly Circus.

JERMYN STREET THEATRE Late

KING'S HEAD, ISLINGTON Song at Twilight Noel Coward's dark autobio-graphical play is directed by Sheridan Morley and stars Corin Redgrave. Tonight 8pm, ends 24 Jan. £12-£13. cones £7. Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1916) ◆ Angel/Highbury & Islington.

RICHMOND THEATRE Jack and the Beanstalk Toyah Willcox, Mark Curry and Vicki Michelle join the stars of bow. Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 30 Jan. £8-£15, concs available. The Green, Richmond, Surrey (0181-940)

THEATRE

THEATRE ROYAL Jack and the Beanstalk Paul Bradley from Eastenders stars alongside Only Fools and Horses's John Challis. Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 24 Jan. £6-£16, concs avail-able. Sawclose (01225-448844)

PAVILION THEATRE Beauty and the Beast Robin Cousins and Buster Mer-ryfield star. Today 2.30pm & 7pm, ends 17 Jan. £6-£13. Westover Road (01202-456456)

BOURNEMOUTH

THEATRE ROYAL Mother Goose Panto extravaganza about the fabled fowl. Today 2.15pm & 7.15pm. ends 30 Jan. £3-£16. King Street (0117-987 7877)

CAMBRIDGE
CORN EXCHANGE Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs With Coronation Street's Beverly Callard and Nick Cochrane, Tonight 7pm, ends 10 Jan. £5-£14. Wheeler Street (01223-

NEW THEATRE The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe David Essex stars in this swashbuckling adventure. Today 2.30pm. ends 30 Jan. £7-£13.50. concs available. Park Place (01222-

en Save the World New adventure, courtesy of Enid Blyton, and set in 1999. Today 2pm, ends Jan 9, £6-£10, concs le. Senghenydd Road (01222-

ditional family panto. Today 2.30pm & 7pm, ends 17 Jan. £7.75-£15.75. concs available. Balkerne Gate (01206-

treat starring Hinge and Bracket and Wendy Craig. Voday 2.30pm & 7.30pm. ends 10 Jan. E7-£11, concs available. Compton Street (01323-412000)

GRAVESEND WOODVILLE HALLS The Wizard of Oz Eastender Barry (Shaun Williamson) follows the Yellow Brick Road, Today 10.30am & 5.30pm, ends 9 Jan. £5-E9.50. Windmill Street (01474-

GUILDFORD YVONNE ARNAUD THEATRE Jack and the Beanstalk Rosemarie Ford, Tim Brooke-Taylor and Robert Powell join

WHITE ROCK THEATRE Peter Pan Gladiator Jet co-stars with Neighbour Jesse Spencer. Today 2pm & 6pm, ends 3 Jan. £4.50-£8.50, concs available.

NEWBURY Panto about the wily cat whose wheeling and dealing earns his master a fortune. Today 2.30pm & 7pm, £10. concs £5.50-£8. Market Place (01635-

Bagnor (01635-46044) Humpty Dumpty Panto-style adapta-tion of the famous nursery rhyme.

MADDERMARKET THEATRE The Wind in The Willows Alan Bennett's adaptation of the Kenneth Grahame riverlife novel Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm. £4-£6.50. St. Johns Alley (01603-

PLYMOUTH

POOLE ARTS CENTRE Aladdin Dora alongside Tracey Childs and David McAlister of Hollyoaks, Today 2,30pm & 7,30pm, ends 16 Jan. E5,90-E11,90. concs available. Kingland Road (01202-

PALACE THEATRE Mother Goose The Palace Theatre Company present a traditional family pantomime. Today 5.30pm, ends 9 Jan. £6.50-£7.50, child £5-£6. Alcester Street (01527-65203)

Today 2.30pm & 7pm. ends 2 Jan. £7.50-£9.50, concs available. The Square (01743-244255)

E8. Solihuli Arts Complex. Homer Road (0121-704 6962) SOUTHAMPTON SOUTHAMPTON
NUFFIELD THEATRE Alice in Wonderland Join Alice on a trip to the topsy turvy world of Wonderland and meet
the White Rabbit, Mad Hatter and

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Adrian Noble directs Adrian Mitchell's adaptation of the CS Lewis Name classic. Tonight 7.15pm. ends 27 Feb.

directs. Tonight 7.30pm, ends Feb 20. E5-E30. Waterside (01789-295623) GRAND THEATRE Cinderella Melinda Messenger and Steven Houghton star as Cinderella and Prince Charm-

NYVERN THEATRE Jack and the

WESTON-SUPER-MARE PLAYHOUSE THEATRE Aladdin Fam-

the Seven Dwarfs Lavish musical panto. Today 2.30pm & 7pm, ends 9 Jan. £8.50-£10.50, concs £6.50-£8.50. Hendford (01935-422884)

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SHERMAN THEATRE The Secret Sev-

COLCHESTER MERCURY THEATRE Cinderella Tra-

EASTBOURNE DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE Cinderella Eastbourne's Christmas

NORTHCOTT THEATRE Dick Whittington Follow the penniless hero as he searches for the streets paved with gold. Today 2.30pm, ends 16 Jan. £7-£15. Stocker Road (01392-493493)

Are You Being Served's Trevor Bannister. Today 2.30pm & 7pm, ends 3 Jan. £9.50-£17.50, concs available. Millbrook (01483-440000)

White Rock (01424-781000) CORN EXCHANGE Puss in Books

Oz Follow Dorothy down the Yellow Brick Road. Today 2.30pm & 7pm, ends 16 Jan. £9.50-£14, concs available. ROYAL THEATRE The Secret Life of

WATERMILL THEATRE The Wizard of

Today 2.15pm & 7pm, ends 16 Jan. £9.50-£14, concs available. Guildhall Road (01604-632 533)

BARBICAN THEATRE Beauty and the Beastles Updated version of the classic love story. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm. ends 9 Jan. £7.50, concs £4.50, Cas-

SHRFWSRURY MUSIC HALL Jack and the Beanstalk Diane Youdale, formerly Gladiator Jet. stars in this popular family pantomime.

SOLIHULL ARTS COMPLEX Babes in the Wood Traditional panto. Today 2.30pm & 7pm, ends 10 Jan. £10, concs

many more. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 16 Jan. £5.95-£12.50, concs available. University Road (01703-671771) STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

SWAN THEATRE A Month in the Country Brian Friel's adaptation of Tur-genev's portrait of all-consuming sex-ual desire. Michael Attenborough

ing. Tonight 7.15pm, ends 31 Jan. £6.50-£12.75. concs available. Singleton Street (01792-475715) SWINDON Beanstalk Exciting family pantomime with stars from TV's Rainbow and Doctor Who. Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 16 Jan. £11.50-£12.50, concs available. Theatre Square. (01793-524481)

WATFORD PALACE THEATRE Jack and the Beanstalk Roy Hudd's family panto, Today 2.30pm, ends 9 Jan. E5-E13. Clarendon Road (01923-225671)

ily panto with stars from TV's Neigh-bours and Gladiators. Today 2.30pm, ends 2 Jan. £8.50-£10.50, concs available. High Street (01934-645544)

OCTAGON THEATRE Snow White and

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CHANGE Snow White the Dwarfs With Commode the Severy Callard and New Yheeler Street (01)

TRE Cinderella Tra. No. Today 2 30pm 6 Jan. £7.75-£11

ikeme Gate (01:06.

ARK THEATRE urne's Christmar and Bracket and 30pm & 7.30pm concs available 323-412000)

EATRE Dick epenniless hero reets perced with Ids 16 Jan. £7. 392-4934931

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is 9 Jan 25

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NEW YEAR'S DAY RADIO

IRE The Adventures of usoe David Essex state of sching adventure. From the State of the Park Place (1012). RADIO 1 (97.6-99.8MHz FM) 6.00 Gilles Peterson. 8.00 Emma EATRE The Secret Sec.

Morid New advirture
i Blyton, and set in 19%
is Jan 9, £6-£10.

nenydd Road (COM) B. 11.00 Chris Moyles. 3.00 Scott Mills. 6.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection, 9.00 Westwood's Hip Hop Anthems. 2.00 Fabio and Grooverider. 4.00 -7.00 Emma B.

RADIO 2 (88-90.2MHz FM) 6.00 Mo Dutta. 8.05 Sarah Kennedy. 10.00 Richard Allinson. 12.30 The Huddlines Songbook. 1.00 Eric Clapton: Bluesbreaker. 2.00 Alex Lester. 5.00 Des Lynam. 7.00 Neil Diamond in Conversation with Paul Gambaccini.

8.00 Ainsley Harriott's New Year Feast. 9.30 Listen to the Band: a Review of 1998, 10.00 Radio 2 Young Musician 1998 Showcase. 11.00 Lynn Parsons. 12.00 Lynn Parsons. 4.0 - 6.0 Lata Sharma. RADIO 3 (90.2-92.4MHz FM) **6.00** On Air. 9.00 Masterworks.

10.15 The New Year's Day Concert. See Pick of the Day. 10.50 Naked Beauties. See Pick of the Day. 11.15 Concert, part 2. 12.35 Telemann. 12.50 The Harmonic Series. 1-00 The R3 Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 The BBC Orchestras. 3.50 The Harmonic Series. 4.00 Mozart Voices. 4.45 Music to Die For. 5.00 A Medieval Christmas.

5.30 Music Rooms. 6.00 Discovering Music with Leonard Slatkin. 7.00 Cabaret Cocktails. 7.30 Performance on 3. Another chance to hear nine of the most memorable concerts of the 1998 BBC Proms season at the Royal Albert Hall, London, 8: in Prom 60. given on 3 September, featured one of the great world orchestras with Mahler's titanic fifth symphony and a major new work by Birtwistle commissioned for Chicago. It is based on the idea of discontinuous time and takes the moment just before midnight as a point of departure into a new world. Chicago SO/Daniel Barenboim, Birwistle: Exody. Mahler: Sympho-

ny No 5 in C sharp minor. (R)

6.00 A Change of Heart (1997) (73517).

(31623). **7.00** p:review (1604). **7.30** UK Top Ten (1333). **8.00** Action Heroes

(4492). 8.30 Movie Magic (6159). 9.00

Shadow Conspiracy (1997) (43976401).

10.45 Hidden Agenda (1990) (36771410).

12.35 The Package (1989) (310289). 2.25

The Presidio (1988) (334821). 4.05 Mater-

nal instincts (1996) (952937). 5.40 - 7.10

4.00 Champion (1949) (8387888). 6.00 The Pink Panther (1964) (7758401). 8.00

The Nutty Professor (1963) (7760246). 10.00 Madgan (1968) (1845826). 11.45

Chel (1969) (2941888), 1.25 Demien -Omen I (1978) (8998208), 3.15 Hollywood

Hall of Fame (5226208). 3.45 The Yellow

Canary (1944) (5256289). 5.20 Close.

6.00 A Room with a View (1965)

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

(7640975). **8.00** Blue Juice (1995)

(7645420). 10.00 Bitter Moon (1992)

(79016197). 12.20 Four Weddings and a

Funeral (1994) (1204208), 2:15 What's Eat-

ing Gibert Grape? (1994) (8054375). **4:10 -6.00** Gregory's Girl (1981) (4745579).

(Part 1) (2624994). **7.30** Beyond 2000 (1217420). **8.00** The Barefoot Bushman

Godzila vs Gigan (1972) (3900753).

SKY CHIENA

FLLEFOUR

SKY PREMER

PICK OF THE DAY

THIS YEAR'S New Year's Day out of the conversation. More Concert (10.15am R3), with its masculine pleasures of the New traditional mix of waltzes and polkas, is interrupted by the first of a pair of features on the Cuban cigar - Naked Beauties (10.50am R3, right). Andrew Jefford travels to Cuba to see cigars being made high in the Rockies, but ecologists and to talk to connoisseurs about and hunters who want to see the the joys of being addicted to a mountains given back to wildlife carcinogenic weed; and, I'm afraid, they fail to keep Monica Lewinsky

9.20 Postscript, Peter Holland

talks to ten Shakespeare experts

about the Bard today, 5: 'Global

Shakespeare'. Terence Hawkes

9.40 Yevgeni Kissin. Another

chance to hear Yevgeni Kissin's

phenomenal first solo recital at

the 1997 BBC Proms, staged in

young Russian planist who at-

tracts the attention and praise

usually reserved for the starriest

virtuosos of the past - like Liszt

and Chopin themselves. Haydn:

Sonata in E flat, H XVI 52, Liszt:

Rhapsody No 12 in C sharp minor.

Piano Sonata No 3 in B minor, Op

Plus encores by Chopin, Liszt.

11.30 And His Mother Called Him

12.00 Composer of the Week:

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

6.00 Today. 9.00 NEWS; Desert Island Discs.

9.45 Serial: Peter Pan and

10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour.

11.30 The Oldest Member.

11.00 NEWS; Summer Pastures.

Bizet (R)

RADIO 4

(92.4-94.6MHz FM)

See Pick of the Day.

Liebestraum No 3; Hungarian

Chopin: Two Nocturnes, Op 27:

Schubert and Beethoven. (R)

11.20 The Harmonic Series.

the arena at the Royal Albert Hall,

London. Kissin is an extraordinary

world.

and Ania Loomba discuss the role

of Shakespeare - and particularly

'The Tempest' - in the postcolonial

World in Summer Pastures (11am R4), in which Dylan Winter meets cowboys at the Pitchfork Ranch. Wyoming. Every year, they drive 2,000 cattle to summer pastures are threatening their future. ROBERT HANKS

12.00 NEWS: You and Yours. 12.57 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. 1.30 Screen Test. 2.00 NEWS; The Archers.

2.15 Afternoon Play: Open Se-

3.00 NEWS; Making History. 3.30 Radio: Ten Poems about Sound. (R) 3.45 Lullaby for an Insomniac

4.00 NEWS; Open Book. 4.30 The Message. 5.00 PM. 5.57 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 News Quiz of the Year. 7.00 NEWS; The Archers. 7.15 Front Row. 'Seamus Heaney: Opened Ground. The Nobel Prizewinning poet talks to Mark Lawson, and reads his earliest and most recent poems. 7.45 Under One Roof, Concluding

the second of three five-part dramatisations from the Michelo Hanson stories, with Janet Maw, Edna Dore and Luisa Bradshaw-8.00 NEWS; Our Next Question

Please? Jonathan Dimbleby looks back on a year in which the term 'foreign affairs' took on a new meaning, Northern Ireland took a decisive step in its history, and 'Any Questions?' celebrated its fiftieth birthday.

8.45 Letter from America. Alistair Cooke with another slice of Ameri-9.00 NEWS; The Friday Play:

Where Three Roads Meet. Written and directed by Don Taylor. Peter has a problem, a personal crisis which he has not shared with anyone. But he is a Church of England vicar, and the time has come for him to share his problem with his Bishop and with his wife. With Michael N Harbour, Karen Archer, Peter Jeffrey, Robin Sebastian and Frances Jeater. (R) 10.00 The World Tonight Special.

With Sue Cameron. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Five Dahls. 5: 'The Way Up to Heaven' by Roald Dahl, read by Patricia Routledge. Mrs Foster hates to be late, but her husband delights in delaying her. When he holds up her departure for Paris, it is the last straw and she leaves without

11.00 Late Tackle. 11.30 Sporting Philanthropists. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: The Restraint of Beasts. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 Leisure Update.

RADIO 4 LW (198kHz) 9.45 - 10.00 An Act of Worship. 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 12.00 - 7.00 Test Match Special.

5.56 - 6.00 Weather.

Radio 5 Live (693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Proops's Hoops. (R) 6.30 Breakfast. 9.00 Brian Hayes. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 3.00 The Scottish Premier League. 5.00 Drive.

7.00 News Extra. 7.30 Alan Green's Sportsnight. Alan Green kicks off the football new year with a lively debate among sporting guests 9.00 Park Life. Mark O'Donnell discovers how Ron Noades runs Brentford Football Club. 10.00 Late Night Live. Insight and comment on the day's big issues

with Brian Hayes. Including Papertalk. 10.30 Sport. 11.00 News. 11.15 The Financial World Tonight. 1.00 Up All Night. 4.00 Extra Time. (R) 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

Classic FM (100.0-101.9MHz FM) 6.00 The Smooth Classics Hangover Cure. 8.00 Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. 10.00 Dr Mark Porter's New Year Workout. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Classic Celebrity Recitals. 3.00 Michael Mappin. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Classic Celebrity Recitals. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105.8MHz FM) 6.00 Richard Allen, 10.00 Russ Williams. 2.00 Nick Abbot, 6.00 Wheels of Steel, 10.00 Mark Forrest. 2.00 - 6.00 Paul Coyte. **WORLD SERVICE RADIO**

(198kHz LW) 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Small Worlds. 1.45 Short Story. 2.00 Newsday. 2.30 People and Politics. 3.00 World News. 3.05 World Business Report. 3.15 Sports Roundup. 3.30 Science in Action. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 Weekend. 5.00 Newsday. 5.30 Outlook. 5.55 - 6.00 Spotlight.

TALK RADIO 6.00 Russell Grant's New Year Breakfast. 9.00 Kate Lloyd. 12.00 An Audience with Barry Manilow. 1.00 The Sports Zone. 8.00 An Audience with Tony Bennett. 9.00 Mike Allen. 2.00 - 8.00 Mike Dickin.

(5445517), **7.30** Callou (5368710), **7.35** Bug Alert (6415246), **7.55** Practical Parenting (6989062), **8.00** Barney and Friends

(62/5994). 8-35 Tirry and Crew (6056772) 8-50 Practical Parenting (9565062). 9.00

The Roseanne Show (4658951). 9.50 The

Michael Cole (6728197). 11.30 The Heat Is

(2180178). **12.30** Rescue 911 (3101246). **1.00** Ready, Steady, Cook (4518159). **1.35**

Can't Cook, Worlt Cook (5943517), 2.10

The Jerry Springer Show (7518710), 3.00 Film: People Will Talk (1951) (1449994).

Jerry Springer Show (7836468). 10.40

On (6593791). 12.00 Special Babies

(6906739). 8-25 Polka Dot Shorts

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS ION SPEELMAN

AFTER TWO rounds of the Hastings Premier, Russian Sergei Shipov was already the sole leader with 2/2 after beating me in the first round and an even harsher victory against Tony Miles in the second.

First my defeat - I can only hope that I generally play better in the New Year. Sergei Shipov (Black), Jon Speelman (White to play). Since Black has the positional threat of ...Nd6, I really had to play 21,b5.

21.b5 cxb5 38.exd4 Rd8 22.Rxb5 Qe6 39.d5 Rd7 23.Bg2 Rec8 40.Rc8+ Ke7 24.Ng5 Rxc1+ 41.Ra8 Kd6 25.Bxc1 Qc6 42.Bc2 Bc4 26.Bxe4 Qxc1+ 43.Rxa4 h5 27.Kg2 Bc4 44.Ra3 Bxd5+ 28.Rc5 Bxe2 45.Kft Bc4+ 29.Rxc1 Rb8 46.Ket Kc5 30.Rc2 Ba6 47.g4 Kb4 31.Re7 Bf6 48.Rh3 Bxa2 49.Rxh7 Rd4 32.NE3 KF8 33.Rc5 b6 50.Bdi Be6 34.Rc7 Bb5 51.h4 Kc3 35.Ne1? e5 52.h5 gxh5

If 26.Rxd5 Qxc1+ 27.Qf1 Qxf1+ 28.Kxf1 Nxg5 29.Rxg5 f5! traps the rook. After he refused a draw offer with 32...Kf8 I went wrong: 33.Ne1 Ke8 (if 33....e5? 34.Bd5!) 34.Nd3 or three moves later 35.Bc6! were still reasonable. Instead, I got horribly squeezed and at the end the Black

53.gxh5 Rh4

54.Bf3 b4 0-1

36.Nf3 exd4

37.Nxd4 Bxd4

pawn will run home. In Tony's game, 7....b6 is rather unusual If then 8....Nxe4 9.d5! is dangerous but 8....Bb7 was possible to provoke 9.e5 - 9.d5 is speculative here. Instead, Black allowed the White queen to f4 where it exerted

considerable pressure. One way to oppose this is to bring the Black queen to the kingside. But during the post-mortem, Jim Plaskett found the extraordinary 12...Qd3 13.Rd1 Qg6 14.Nh4 Qh5 15.Rd8+!!

wi // i//

AGE

Kxd8 16.Bd1 trapping her. 12_Nxb3 looks nice but the open a file and weakness on b6 are serious. If 14...0-0 15.Bh6! but the king is awful on f8. If 15 ... Qe8 16. Bg5 but 16.Ra4! was one attacker too many. Later if 21....Nxe5 22.Qe3 Qc6 23.f3 etc. At the end if 23....exf4 24.Qd6+! or 23....Qb8 24.Qc4!

> Sergei Shipov v Tony Miles Hastings 1998 (2nd round) Queen's Gambit Accepted

13 axb3 Be7 1 d4 d5 14 Qg3 Kf8 2 c4 dxc4 3 Nf3 Nf6 15 Rd1 Nd7 16 Ra4! Qe8 4 e3 e6 5 Bxc4 c5 17 Rg4 g6 18 Bh6+ Kg8 6 0-0 a6 19 Ng5 Bf8 7 Bb3 b6!? 8 e4 cxd4 20 Bxf3 Kxf8 9 e5 Nfd7 21 Rf4 f5 10 Qxd4 Bb7 22 exf6 e5 11 Of4 Nc5 23 Qd3 1-0 12 Nc3 Nxb3

East-West game; dealer South

BRIDGE

EAST FOUND himself in a position where he had three possible lines of defence on this deal. He rejected the first as obviously wrong, and the second because it was surely too dangerous. Unfortunately the third worked badly as well when declarer judged matters well. Only later did it become clear that East should not

have been so hasty with his analysis. South opened Two Clubs (showing an Acol Two in any of the four suits but not game-forcing) and North relayed with Two Diamonds. East overcalled with Two Hearts, South showed his spades, and West a spade raise from his partner, South went on to game. All passed and West led the ace and another heart against Four Spades. East took his king and switched to his trump.

After winning the spade return in hand, declarer led his singleton diamond to the two, jack and queen. This left East on lead with a problem. A diamond return would clearly cost a trick and there was an acute danger in trying a club for if, as seemed likely, South held the queen as well as the ace, he would now avoid a club loser.

Taking a deep breath, East tried a third round of hearts, deliberately conceding a ruff and discard. All

North **♦**J32 ♥64 **♦KJ876 ♣**J75 West East **♠**765 **ØKJ1098** ♥A532 ◊1052 **♦AQ93 4**1063 **∳**K42 South **♦**AKQ1098 ♥Q7 ٥4 ♣AQ98

would have been well if declarer had ruffed in dummy but he wisely trumped in hand and discarded a club from the table. Now 4J gave an entry for a successful club finesse and 2A and a club ruff followed to give South 10 tricks. And the spurned possibility? The

ace of diamonds (or, for that matter, even a low diamond!) certainly gives declarer a trick in the suit but does not really help him for he still has an inescapable club loser. Would you have found this defence?

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

8.00 The incredible Journey (1963) (26352), 10.00 The Witches (1990) (52604). 12.00 A Change of Heart (1997) (16975). 2.00 The incredible Journey (1963) (19913). 4.00 Litters (1997) (1081). 6.00 The Witches (1990) (92509), B.00 Fierce Creatures out Anthony Minghella's (1997) (57474). 10-00 The English Patient multi-Oscar-winning romance (1996) (85463975). See Pick of the Day. 12.40 Diabolique (1996) (308444). 2.30 The English Patient (10pm Sky Rough Megic (1995) (594376). **4.15-6.00** Jitters (1997) (671550). Premier) is still well worth catching. Ralph Fiennes and SKY MOVIEMAX Kristen Scott Thomas (right) 6.00 Vanishing Point (1997) (50449). 7.30 shine as Count Laszlo Almasy and Blue Rodeo (1995) (33772), 9,00 Explor-Katherine Clifton, the pair who ers (1985) (15246). 11.00 Godzilla vs Gi-(1972) (73062). **1.00** Blue Rodeo (1996) (19062). **3.00** Explorers (1985) (30826). **5.00** Vanishing Point (1997) embark on an illicit affair in

IT MAY lose some of its visual the Booker Prize-winning novel grandeur on the small screen, by Michael Ondaatje, Almasy tended by nurse Juliette Binoche a few years later.

The Professionals (6pm Granada Pius) has undergone a revival in popularity thanks to a recent series of spoof adverts. Check out how large those flares really were in this secret-agent series with Martin Shaw and the Sahara Desert just before the Second World War. In the Lewis Collins. complex plot, adapted from

JAMES RAMPTON



(6229886), 12,00 Myths of Mankind: The Flood (3217837), 1,00 Connections 2 by James Burke (4499956), 1.30 Ancient Werriors (9984647). 2.00 Close.

SKY ONE 8.00 Earthworm Jim (22975), 8.30 Count Duckula (21246). 9.00 The Simpsons (45826). 9.30 Garfield and Friends (49130). 10.00 Xena: Warrior Princess (66468). 11.00 The New Adventures of Superment (48804), 12.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 2081). **1.00** Jenny Jones (48401). **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (80230). 3.00 Sarah_Surviving Life (77449). 4.00 Guityi (89284). 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (5607). 6.00 Married with Children (5401). 6.30 Friends (3951). 7.00 Friends (6538). 7.30 The Simpsons (6265), 8.00 King of the Hill 84). **8.30** 3rd Rock from the Sun (4791). 9.00 ER (94604), 10.00 Hot Summer Downunder (97791). **11.00** British Sex (10941). **1.00** - 7.00 Long Play (8705596).

SKY SPORTS 1 6.00 Super League - Super Tries 1998 43604, 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (64825). 8.00 World Wrasting Federation Superstars (65555). 9.00 Racing News (14555). 9.30 Soccer Extra New Year Special 4.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (1227807). 4.30 Walker's World (1216791). 5.00 Connections 2 by James Burke (1760772), 5.30 Jurassica (1230371), 6.00 (881352), 12,30 Goals and Bloopers (82913), 2,00 Scottish Football Motherwell Animal Doctor (1237284). 6.30 Great Whitel vs Kirnamock (265265). **5.00** Boxing -Fights of 96 (968604). **8.00** Soccar Extra 196238261, 9.00 South African Visions: Taxi Wars (6956642). 9.30 Bupples (4269159). New Year Special (902284). 11.00 Scottish Football Motherwell vs Kilmamock (98771). 12.30 Boxing (5787192). 3.30 Wrestling (39050). 5.30 - 6.00 H2O (38840). 10.00 Zulu Messengers (8709739). 10.30 Blood and Guts (6785)59), 11.00 The Gold-en Girts (6935)59), 11.30 Time to Cull

SKY SPORTS 2 6.00 Angling Masters (2265772), **7.00** Aerobics - Oz Style (9087062), **7.30** Football League Review (4926536), 8.30 What a Weekend (6533604), 9.00 Fish TV Angling Masters (435826), 10.00 The Rugby Club (93509), 11.00 Ice Hockey (560940), 1.30 Super League: Super Tries (5986994), 2.30 Anging Masters (2783739), 3.30 Trans World Sport (9480589). 4.30 What a Weekend (4595336). 5.00 Carts: World Championships (4454994). 11.00 H2O (2123913). 11.30 International Cricket Australia vs England (3853604), 2.00 Gillette World Sport Special (1870901). 2.30 - 7.00 Cricket Australia vs England (9352802).

SKY SPORTS 3 12.00 Trans World Sport (20207604). 1.30 Fish TV Anging Masters (68426604). 2.00 Ice Skating (4049488). 4.00 The Rugby Ctub (62546642). 5.00 Survival of the Fittest (19962913). 5.30 Gillette World Sport Special (42097401). 6.00 Wild Spirits (42027642), 6.30 H2O (42018994), 7.00 Motorcycling (40499335) 8.00 tos Sketting (4049997), 10.00 World Wrestling Federation Raw (82533178), 12.00 Close.

EUROSPORT 7.30 Xirem Sports Yoz Mag (68046), 8.30 Motor Sport: Legend of the Daker Rally (12975), 10.00 Sid Jumping (6008623), 11.10 Alpine Siding (70694333), 12.45 Football European Championship Legends (165468), 1.45 Martial Arts (92282130). 3.30 Skiing (90642), 4.30 Ski Jumping (32739), 6.30 Sports Cock-Ups (4401).

7.00 Motor Sport (58826), **8.00** Tennis (47420), **9.30** Rally: Total Granada Dakar 99 (34807). 10.00 Bowling (57197). 11.00 Xtrem Sports (76505), 12.00 Raily: Total Granada Dakar 99 (39579). 12.30 Close 7.00 Crossroads (1034523). 7.30 Neigh-

bours (9400642). 7.55 EastEnders (1331401). 8.30 The Bill (8799352). 9.00 The Bit (789607) 9.30 Pride and Prejudice (2739807) 40.30 Angels (8788888), 11.00 Dates (6104623), 11.55 Neighbours (98983371), 12.25 EastEnders (7807975). 1.00 Pride and Prejudice (4279536). 2.00 Dales (1319284). 2.55 The Bill (1822401). 3.25 The Bill (6059468). 3.55 EastEnders (3746371). 4.30 Angels (72840468). 4.55 Films: Carry On at Your Convenience (1971) (49628284) 6.45 Only Fools and Horses (73263975), 8.35 Porridge (4972130), 9.30 Specially Selected Carned Carrott (4020449), 10.25 Rising Damp (2535710), 11.00 The Young Ones (3363468), 11.40 The Young Ones (3366826). 12.25 The Young Ones (5698821). 1.05 The Young Ones (2997192). 1.45 The Young Ones (9513685). 2.25 Young Ones (2469473).

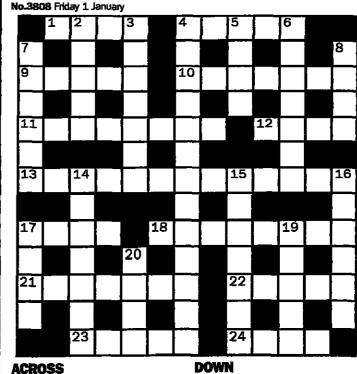
2.55 - 7.00 Shopping (13659647). 6.00 Dog and Arabella Nursery Rhymes 9945604). **6.10** Alfred J Kwak (39087449). 6.30 Trny and Crew '98 (17107178). 6.35 Palka Dat Shorts (64762555), 6.50 See How They Grow (17101994), 7.00 Practical Parenting (5461536). 7.05 Professor Bubble

5.00 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (1136178). 5.35 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (7918401). **6.10** The Jerry Springer Show (1104772). 7.00 Rescue 911 (8399623). 7.30 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (1802642). 8.00 Murder Cali (7757772). 9.00 Films Buried Secrets (1996) (5099197). 11.30 Sex Life Down Under (5718913). 12.00 Close. 9.00 Show Boet (1951) (40409710). 11.00 Singin' in the Rain (1952) (21601536), 1.00 The Band Wagon (1953) (21652260), 3.00 Seven Brides for Seven Brothers (1954) (34973228). 5.00 Close().

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL 7.00 Clueless (6178). 7.30 Desmonds (3159), 8.00 Roseanne (5826), 8-30 Just Shoot Me (4333), 9.00 Cybil (92772), 9.30 Seinfeld (30081). 10.00 Films: Mystic Pizza (1988) (16352). 12.00 Late Night with David Letterman (31598), 1.00 Taxi (78192), 1.30 The Critic (15111), 2.00 Dr Katz (18869). 2.30 Soap (97376), 3.00 Wings (98956). 3.30 Nightstand (11956). 4.00 Close.

GRANADA PLUS 6.00 Within These Walls (9858197). 7.00 On the Buses (4490771). 7.30 Fenn Street Gang (1440456), 8.00 That's My Boy (5000062), 8-30 Second Thoughts (5009333), 9-00 Coronation St (5023913), 9.30 Emmerciale (8740401). 10.00 thirtysomething (9545820). 11.00 Hawaii Five-O (5145064). 12-00 Coronation Street (5010449). 12,30 Emmerdale (6/5/57). 1,00 Nearest and Decrest (5840212). 1,30 Wetching (8750989). 2,00 thirtysomething (3847523). 3,00 The Love Boat (5944772). 5.00 Hawali Five-O (5743791). 6.00 The Professionals (8769536), See Pick of the Day. 7.00 The Professionals (5125130). 8.00 The Love Boat (5145994). 10.00 The Joker's Wild (5011178). 10.30 The Joker's Wild (5020825). 11.00-2.00 As Granada. Men & Motors (4789536).

CONCISE CROSSWORD



REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

CENTRAL
6.00 GMTV (5193825). 9.25 Percy the Park Keeper (5875994). 9.55 Rocky and the Dodos (8852284). 10.10 Brilliant Creatures (5665449). 10.30 The Canterville Ghost (27536). 12.00 Are You Afraid of the Dark? (78130). 12.30 News; Weather (17987710). 12.40 Dinosaurs (3843517). 1.10 Sean Connery Close-Up (5868352). 1.55 Firm: Once upon a Forest (7108265). 3.15 Far from the Madding Crowd (344333). 5.15 ITN News; Weather (5886913). 5.25 Film: Black Beauty (95704352). 7.00 Do-ti-Yourself, Mr Bean (6994). 7.30 Coronation Street: With the New Year celebrations in full flow, Alf passes away aumoticed. Nick is the hero as he rescues Sally from Greg's clutches (81). 2.00 Who Wants to be a Millioneire?: cues Sally from Greg's clutches (81). 8.00 Who Wants to be a Millionaire? Chris Tarrant presents the cutz show in which contestants attempt to give 15 correct answers to win the top prize of correct answers to win the top prize of one million pounds (5642). 8.30 Film: You Only Live Twice (99454772). 10.35 ITN News; Weather (825159). 10.45 Film: Alien (66338401). 12.55 Greatest Goels (6321598). 2.95 ClubaVision (7483531). 2.50 Film: Stormy Weathers (329024). 4.25 Entertainment Now (2152208). 5.20 Making of Dr Dolittle

(1161444). 5.55 - 6.00 News (7215173). HTV WALES NTV WALES
6.00 GMTV (6193826). 9.25 Percy the
Park Keeper (6875994). 9.55 Rocky
and the Dodos (8652284). 10.30 Brilliant
Creatures (6865449). 10.30 The Canterville Ghost (27536). 12.00 Are You
Afraid of the Dark? (78130). 12.30
News; Weather (1787710). 12.40 Shortland Street (3843517). 1.10 Sean Connerv - Close-Up (5868352). 1.55 Firm: land Street (3843517). 1.10 Sean Cornery - Close-Up (5868552). 1.55 Film: Once upon a Forest (7108265). 3.15 Far from the Madding Crowd (344933). 5.15 Film: Black Beauty (95704352). 7.00 Do-It-Yourself, Mr Bean (6994). 7.20 Coronation Street (81). 8.00 Who Wants to be a Millionaire? (5642). 8.30 Film: You Only Live Twice (99454772). 10.35 ITN News; Weather (825159). 10.45 Fim: Allen (66338401). 12.65 Greatest Goals (8321598). 2.05 ClubaVision (7483531). 2.50 Film: Stormy Weathers (329024), 4.25 Entertainment Now (7729442), 5.25 Coronation Street (1118173), 5.55 - 6.00 News (7215173).

MERIDIAN 6.00 GMTV (6193826). 9.25 Percy the Park Kaeper (6875994). 9.55 Rocky and the Dodos (8652284). 10.10 Brillant

Creatures (6685449). 10.30 The Canterville Ghost (27536). 12.00 Are You Afraid of the Derk? (78130). 12.30 News; Weather (17887710). 12.40 Emmerdale (3843517). 1.10 Sean Connery - Close-Up (5868352). 1.35 Film: Once upon a Forest (7108265). 3.15 Far from the Madding Crowd (344333). 5.15 Film: News; Weather (5888913). 5.25 Film: Black Beauty (95704352). 7.00 Do-lt-Yourself, Mr Bean (6994). 7.30 Coronation Street (81). 8.00 Who Wants to be a Millionaire? (5642). 8.30 Film: You Only Live Twice (99454772). 10.35 ITN News; Weather (825159). 10.45 Film: Allen (66338401). 12.55 Greatest Goals (8321598). 2.05 ClubaVision (7483531). 2.50 Film: Stormy Weathers (329024). 4.25 Emertainment Now (7729442). 5.25 Bugs Bunny (1118173). 5.55 - 6.00 (TN Morning News (7215173). 6.00 (TN Morning News (72)5173).

WESTCOUNTRY 6.00 GMTV (6193826). 9.25 Percy the Park Keeper (6875994). 9.55 Rocky and the Dodos (8652284). 10.10 Brilliant and the Dodo's (8665449), 10.30 British Creatures (8665449), 10.30 The Canter-ville Ghost (27536), 12.00 Are You Afraid of the Dark? (78130), 12.30 News; Weather (17887710), 12.40 Emmerdale (3843517). 1.10 Sean Connery - Close-Up (5868352). 1.55 Film: Once upon a Forest (7108265). 3.15 Far from the Madding Crowd (344333). 5.15 FIlm News; Weather (5886913). 5.25 Film: Black Beauty (95704352). 7.00 Do-lt-Yourself, Mr Bean (6994). 7.30 Coronation Street (81). 8.00 Who Wants to be a Millionaire? (5642). 8.30 Film: You Only Live Twice (99454772). 10.35 News; Weekend Weather (826159). 10.45 Film: Allen (6638401). 12.55 Greatest Goals (8321598). 2.05 ClubaVision (7483531). 2.50 Film: Stormy Weathers (329024), 4.25 Entertainment Now (7729442), 5.25 Bugs Burny (1118173), 5.55 - 6.00 News (7215173). YORKSHIRE

6.00 GMTV (6193826). 9.25 Percy the Park Keeper (6875994). 9.55 Rocky and the Dodos (8652284). 10.10 Brillant Creatures (6665449). 10.30 The Canter-Ville Ghost (27536). 12.00 Are You Afraid of the Dark? (78130). 12.30 News; Weather (17987710). 12.40 Emmerdale (5533401). 1.40 Cartoon (86009333). 1.55 Film: Once upon a Forest (7108265). 3.15 Far from the Madding Carrol Madding Crowd (344333). 5.15 ITN News; Weather (5886913). 5.25 Film: Black Beauty (95704352). 7.00 Do-It-

Yourself, Mr Bean (6994). 7.30 Coronation Street (81). 8.00 Who Wants to be a Millonaire? (5642). 8.30 Film: You Only Live Twice (99454772). 10.35 ITN News; Weather (825159). 10.45 Film: Alien (66338401). 12.55 Greatest Goals (8321598). 2.05 ClubaVision (7483531). 2.50 Film: Stormy Weathers (329024). 4.25 Entertainment Now (2152208). 5.20 Making of Dr Dolittle (1161444). 5.55 - 6.00 Morning News (7215173).

As Channel 4 except: 12.25 Granpa (67044997): 12.55 Planed Plant (6964438): 4.30 Planed Plant (23100994). 5.30 Countdown (56653888): 6.00 Newyddion (6424642): 6.05 Heno (13198807): 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (25965333). 7.25 Cynnwyd Channel Ton (25965333). 7.25 Cymperdd Caneuon Tony ac Alorna. Diolch I Chi (10296772), 8.15 Cefn Gwlad (195125), 8.45 Newyddion (368)(130), 10.00 Brookside (5442178), 10.35 The Frasier Story (42170542), 11.45 Frasier (1960913), 11.45 Cheers (20928913), 12.20 Film: The Man with Two Brains (37523647), 1.55 Film: All of Me (19861802), 3.55-4.50 Film: The Man Who Changed His Mind* (34682227). ALL OTHER ITY REGIONS SEE MAIN ITY

Sharpens (5) Small drum (5) 10 Big cat (7) 11 Immediately (8) 12 Sword (4)

1 Young cow (4)

13 Support for lines (9,4) 17 Cut (4) 18 Played with notes separated (8)

21 Century (7) 22 Farewell (5) 23 Sweets (5) 24 Level (4)

Religious superior (5) Agriculture (7) Without great enthusiasm (4-Rare gas (4) Wash hair (7) Full extent of one's ability (6)

Advantage (4) Of few words (7) 15 Land measure (7) 16 Self-centredness (6) 17 Sunken fence (2-2) 19 Nimble (5) 20 Smile (4)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Summers, 5 Halts (Somersuults), 8 Error, 9 Fiction, 10 Tangent, 11 Niger, 12 Forage, 14 Myopia, 17 Cater, 19 Amazons, 22 Impeach, 23 Overt, 24 Nacre, 25 Refined. DOWN: 1 Smelt, 2 Mariner, 3 Eerie, 4 Safety, 5 Hackney, 6 Lying, 7 Sangria, 12 Faction 13 Garbage, 15 Phone-in, 16 Rasher, 18 Topic, 20 Aloof, 21 Sated.



PETER CONCHIE

le Docisive Momonts
(ell into the latter
ts format was ingenious
lised – an image was
lised hotographer given
dit aphotographer behind
dit and the story behind
ure explained. It was a
usly paced programme,
pairrored the very

(O)

cott at the Brit Awards, angel of the North statue, Collymore and brulsed is and, rather surreally, ice Harry abselling. We also the chance to review some a year's better tabloid dlines. "Zip Me Up Before Go Go" accompanied an ige of George Michael side a public tollet in werly Hills. "Pittafaill" cried Daily Mitror as Paul scoigne lurched around ho with a kebab, just weeks fore the World Cup.

The story behind a aed significance once the broke. Then it was click, click – a wet John olt at the Brit Awards, agel of the North statue,

hotograph of the Lawrence induiry was satisfying in its noral complexity. The picture was taken by a young press gency snapper as the five nen suspected of murdering beginen Lawrence strutted rom the impotent inquiry in outh London. It showed the ve, previously cool and inrepentant in sunglasses, esponding instinctively to the rowd's hostility with sudden iolence. For once, on film, they are caught, portrayed as the nurderous thugs most people elleve them to be. "In the ubile perception it redressed as balance... the picture efined what happened," a icture editor noted. Maybe. Int ironically it almost wasn't aken due to the same seething eather to redress the balance. 'he crowd pulled the botographer's step ladder out om under him seconds after the interne unsertore to redress to records after the picture was to be balance.

TELEVISION REVIEW

cess of news photography a succession of transic ps, brief glimpses of a sitiestop year; were spilced h longer; satisfying lanations on the origin of se now iconic images. Sanuary opened with the ray of the search for images sill Clinton and Monica winsky in the CNN archve, sting footage which

Yiannis, the Stavros-like composer of the Greek entry, had been byped as the programme's novelty element. Expecting a stereotypical buffoon, I was pleasantly surprised to encounter a highly star grid-fire sequence to follow six of his singer's more extravagant arm movements. "The Israell lady – a lady? Okay – Laady makes similar, similar moves with my singer," Yiannis flourished in his best Harry Enfield accent. "And they shot at her not only with rapid shots, but with a digital filters, and digitally with a beams... And I notice." Yiannis beams... And I notice." Yiannis

BBC1

8.30 Teletubbles (7690307). 6.55 Postman Pat (2909710).
7.10 Arthur (2320975). 7.35 Brambly Hedge (3216197).
8.00 Yogl's Treasure Hunt (5028604). 8.20 Blue Peter-Megic Moments (3485541). 8.50 Taz-Menia (7708642).
9.16 911 Live in Malaysia (5) (8860062). 9.40 The Fame Game - New Year Special (5248130). 10.05 Teletubbles (5) (1543536). 10.35 Rotten Ralph (5) (527555).
11.00 IIIII The Little Rescale (Penelope Spheeris 1994 US). A boy falls out with his girl-hating peers when he falls in love (5) (1) (8795565).

12.20 Wipeout (S) (T) (4836555). 12.45 Laughing for Ages (S) (298975). 1.15 News; Weather; Regional News (94989739). 1.25 Neighbours (S) (T) (60685623).

1.50 IIII Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (Ken Hughes 1968 UK). Overlong, overblown and terminally cuts adaptation of lan Fleming's children's adventure about a flying Edwardian car. Diok Van Dyke leads the cast and Roald Dahl co-wrote the script (T) (29987536).

5.25 EIM K-9 (Rod Daniel 1989 US). Dog of an action comedy about a cop (a sheepish looking James Belushi) who is teamed with an Alsatian police dog in an effort to crack a drugs ring. Met Harris provides the love interest, but the film is mainly of interest to small children and the Orufts set (S) (T) (85719284).

10.36 1311(1) Atr vs; Regional News; Weather (T) (797994).

t1.55 ITIMI Fletch Lives (Michael Ritchie 1989 US). Well, berely, and all depends on your stomach for Chevy Chase (mine has a fairly low tolerance). In this lamebrain sequel to Fletch, Chase's investigative reporter is bequeathed a Deep South plantation, which turns out to be not quite what it seems, of course (S) (T) (984062), 1.30 Joins BBC News 24 (1815802). To 6am.

7.45 JIIM Days of Thrills and Laughter (Robert Youngson 1961 US). Silent comedy compilation featuring the usual suspects: Keaton, Chaplin, etc. (T) (216791).

3.50 IIIM The Robe (Henry Koster 1953 US), Cinema-Scope religious epic with Richard Burton as the Roman centurion who wins Christ's robe in a dice game and falls for Christian convert Jean Simmons (T) (28185081).

11.10 Happy New Year (7835062), 11.15 New Year's Day Concert from Vienna (S) (5779623), 12.35 The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures: Staying Alive – the Body in Balance (S) (T) (5547604), 1.35 Cambridge Folk Festival (S) (4158642), 2.15 The Shealiteis (410265).

9.45 Perfectly Frank (S) (T) (781739).
9.20 IIIM Knights of the Round Table (Richard Thorpe 1953 US). Robert Taylor and Ava Gardner romp around Arthurian England (T) (28712265).

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6.00 Poppes. Continuing Monteverdi's serialised opera about intrigue and sexual politics at Nero's court in Rome. Nero's descent into debauchery continues (S)

Are You Sitting Comfortably? (2626888). 4.45 Neighbours (1022617). 5.10 News; Weather (5883828).

6.40 <u>ETDER</u> UK Confidential - a Leviathan Special. Mark Urban sifts through documents newlyreleased under the 30-year confidentiality rule. See Documentary of the Day, below (S) (628791).

7.30 University Challenge, Jeremy Paxmen hosts a "press special" in which the tabloid press take on the broadsheets (S) (T) (5).

7.20 Rex the Runt (S) (T) (800826).

The World's Strongest Man. The Moroccan port of Tangiers plays host to the final of this year's He-man compelition to find the world's strongest man, presented by John Inverdele (S) (T) (9897).

8.00 DIOINA Apollo 13 (Ron Howard 1985 US). Oscar-winning drame based on the frue story of the Apollo 13 space mission. See Film of the Day, below (S) (T)

8.00 Gardening from Scratch 2. Projects to recisim sularge, dereict garden and to create a wildlife-friendly organic garden (R) (S) (T) (5888). 8.30 **Gardeners' World.** Alan Titchmarsh looks back over the gardening year with another chance to see some of the gardens visited during the 1998 series (S) (T) (7823).

9.45 The Young Ones. Student anarchy from the early 1880s. The famous foursome discover that their house about to be demolished – and so decide to do it themselves (R) (T) (196178). 9.00 The New Year Armistice. Armando lannucci, David Schneider and Peter Baynham greet the New Year with topical salire and comedy, and an opportunity to win a babysitter for New Year's Eve 1999 (5) (533975).
9.35 Rex the Runt (S) (T) (281623).

10.15 GIOTE Bang, Bang, It's Reeves and Mortimer. Vic and Bob return in sketch format, See Cornedy of the Dey, below (S) (T) (188159).

10.45 Young Guns Go For It. New documentary series re-examining the music and the musical icons of the Eightles, beginning with Boy George and Cufture Club (S) (T) (818739).

10.45 EIIM

10,36 ITN N

vs, Weather (T) (825159)

11.25 The Boy George Video Diery. The Culture Club lead singer captures the band's first US tour since reforming (S) (T) (172604).

Tales from the Far Side 2 (S) (659333), **12.35** Sliders (S) (T) (7136821), **1.20** Sliders (S) (T) (8399531), To 2.10am. 12.55 Great (748353 2.50 [3][M] Cybii S

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

UK CONFIDENTIAL - A LEVIATHAN SPECIAL (6.40pm BBC2) Documents relating to events in 1968 will be released today under the official 30-year-confidentiality rule, giving the public the "true" picture of that tunnultuous year. For the first time, television has been given advance sight of the documents, and presenter Mark Urban (right) sifts the files for any major revelations (one imagines the really controversial stuff is in a box marked "Not to be opened until 2100"). Brian Walden, meanwhile, is on hand to report on the most sensitive files held by the then Labour

COMEDY OF THE DAY

are beginning to get just a re beginning to get just a re heart really sinks when re but it proves a mercifully ve themselves with a nice adged between two trees. The pastiche, but the end to appear the reserves to the safety of the safety was the safety of the safety of the safety was the safety of the s





BBC2

6.00 IIIM A King in New York (Charlie Chaplin 1957 UK). Chaplin's embarrassing fable about a deposed Rurltanian monarch who becomes a TV celebrity in New York (T) (48931284).

9,26 Childr (687599

6.25 IIIM
Sean B
classic
story, s
his ever
Cook a
Wexmir Black Beauty (Caroline Thompson 1994 UK). Bean and David Thewils star in this version of the Bean and David Thewils star in this version of the Ic Anna Sewell story – or rather a reworking of that since Beauty is now retired and looking back over rentful lifle (with the voice of Alan Cumming). Peter and Eleanor Bron also feature as Lord and Lady nire (S) (T) (95704352).

7.00 Do-It-Yo forward to Atkinson's fans. He (7,30 Coron ***Yourself, ***#Ir Bean. Personally, I'm looking rard to **Jump off a Tall Building, **Mr Bean, but Rowan nson's dialogue-free comic creation has millions of the New Year sales (R) (6994).

**Ne goe's to the New Year sales (R) (6994).

Tonation Street. So farewell, then Alf. And Nick rescue (S) (T) (81).

8.00 Who V Vants to be a Millionaire? Chris Tarrant and ash for questions (S) (T) (5842).

8.30 TIM UK), Th You Only Live Twice (Lewis Gilbert 1967 e Japanese Bond with the famous hollow

9.00 My Favourite Frasier. Channel 4's "Frasier Night" starts here as tans of the US comedy series starring Kelsey Grammer plok their favourite moments (T) (4517).
9.30 Frasier's Favourite Frasier. This is Kelsey Grammer's own particular favouritre episode, apparently, one where their dad takes Frasier and Niles to an

10.00 The Fraster Story. Including interviews with the producers and writers of the show, who describe the comedy from its conception to the move to its current 10,40 comedy from its conception primetime slot (T) (745159).

11.45 1.20 IIII Alt of Me (Carl Reiner 1984 US). Lewyer Steve Martin has his body invaded by the soul of millionalress Lily Tomiin in this body-swap comedy (779753).

3.00 The Man Who Changed His Wind (Robert Stevenson 1936 US) Sci-fi B-movie (9690956), To 3am.

Stormy Weathers (WIII Mackenzie 1982 US). repherd plays a private detective searching for ling relative of an Italian aristocrat (329024).

(2152208). To 5.20am

et Goals (8321598). 2.05 Club@Vision (S)

Carlton

ELEVISION

Ildren's ITV: Percy the Park Keeper (R) (S) 75994), 9.55 Rocky and the Dodos (8652284), 10.10 To994), 9.55 Rocky and the Dodos (8652284), 10.10 Illant Creatures (8665449), 10.30 The Canterville ost (R) (S) (T) (27536), 12.00 Are You Airaid of the rk? (R) (S) (T) (78130), 12.30 News; Weather (T) 387710), 12.40 The Baldy Man (3843517), 1.10 Sean rinery - Close-Up (T) (5868352).

1993 Ut reachin with me environ Donce upon a Forest (Charles Grosvenor S). The sort of eco-animation that gets one ig for a chainsew. An enchanted forest populated aglical animal characters is threatened by an mental diseaser (T) (7108265).

om the Madding Crowd (R) (T) (344333). 'N News; Weather (T) (5886913).

6.55

8.30 Brookside. The New Year is seen in at the Millennium Club as Jacqui, Susannah and Lindsey toast their future. Mike and Rachel have a New Year kiss (S) (T) (2791).

ensive restaurent (R) (S) (T) (14420).

Frasier. A showing of the episode which Channel 4 viewers have voted as their favourite show (1) (879739).

11.10 Cheers. Where, of course, it all began (T) (778449).

11.45 IIIM The Man with Two Brains (Carl Reiner 1983 US). The first of two Steve Martin comedies is this very furny tale of a brain surgeon falling in love with a woman's disembodied brain (T) (988888).

Channel

00.0

Sesame Street (R) (S) (59604). 7.00 For Better or for Worse (R) (25197). 7.30 The Magic School Bus (R) (S) (52884). 8.00 The Big Breakfast (S) (T) (77062). 10.00 The Bigger Breakfast (T) (87449). 10.30 Eerle, Indiana (S) (T) (85420). 11.00 Madison (7081). 11.30 Babylon 5 (7577130).

12.25 Explosive Dance. The English National Ballet and the Royal Ballet feature in this Red Cross gala concert on behalf of landmine victims (1076517).

1.25 Channel 4 Racing from Cheltenham. Alastair Down introduces the 1.35, 2:10, 2:45 and 3:20pm races (49058468).

3.40

The Filteen-to-One Grand Final (R) (S) (7) (5363130). 4.30 Christmas Countdown Final (S) (T) (1010772). 4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (1039807).

10.05 My Story (3425555). 10.20 Sunset Beach (S) (T) (2415081). 11:10 Leeza (R) (S) (2302807). 12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (1488975). 12.30 Family Affairs (R) (S) (T) (8234604). 1.00 The Boid and the Beautiful (S) (T) (8393555). 1.30 Wowfabgroovy (9233975). 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (S) (6654975).

8.30 EILM Lassie: the New Beginning (Don Chaifey 1979 US). The super-intelligent collic dog helps two children to find their uncle in order to prevent them from being taken into care (56131265).

6.00 Wind in the Willows (R) (24035933). **6.20** Roobarb (R) (50926587). **6.30** Dappledown Farm (R) (7039623). **7.00** Wimzle's House (R) (9394284). **7.30** Milkshaket (S) (4558307). **7.35** Havakazoo (R) (S) (9025197). **8.00** George of the Jungle (R) (1465888).

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THE FRIDAY REVIEW
The Independent 1 January 1999

5.20 Frank Sinatra in Japan. A chance to see Frank Sinatra, who died last May, performing in concert at the Budokan Hall in Tokyo in 1985. Featuring "I've Got You under My Skin", "The Lady is a Tramp", "Fly Me to the Moon", "I Get a Kick Out of You", and all the rest (R) (S)

6.00 100 Per Cent. The game show without a host (S) (5515284).

Family Affairs. Yearn'n and Josh are drawn to one another after a night of clubbing, but Nick is horrified when Sadle makes a pass at him (S) (T) (1197710).

Football Review of the Year. Channel 5 recycles its football coverage, which means Liverpool, Chelsea and Aston Villa's adventures in Europe feature Highly. The programme goes down under to meet the England cricket team, who take time off from the Ashes campaign to reveal their football fantasies (9359284).

7.05 IIIII Choetbusters (Ivan Reitm sacked New York parapsychology pro Murray, Dan Aykroyd and Harold Ram k parapsychology professors (tall k parapsychology professors (tall k parapsychology) professors (tall k parapsychology) decide to set around a gency in this entertaining but in comedy. Bill Murray is the lynchpin of enting the special effects from taking and the special effects from taking and the special effects from taking the special effects fr man 1984 US). Three xofessors (BN mils) decide to set

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9.00

10.50 Melinda's Big Night In. Metrda Messenge's guests tonight are Anthea Turner, Lionel Blair and 911 (S) (6307505).

11.35 Compromising Situations (R) (5880371).

12.40 IRIM Finders Keepers, Lovers Weepers (Russ Meyer 1988 US). Two adulterous couples are held hostage in a go-go bar (40304043).

130 IRIM Sarah T. Portrait of a Teenage Alcoholic Melodrama (Richard Donner 1975 US). (1690883). To 3.15am.

TELEVISION GUIDE BY GERARD GHBERF



FILM OF THE DAY

and all that. Any movie about the rescue of Apollo 13 in April 1970 was going to have its work cut out to be more exciting than the actual events, but Ron Howard's 1995 blockbuster does a pretty good job of it. Much of it was filmed in weightless conditions, and the nicely contrasting casting has Tom Hanks as Jim Lovell, Bill Paxton as Fred Haise and Kevin Bacon enjoying himself as Jack Swigert. The movie streases the heroism and sticks to the facts, much of the tension coming



